

هنا من الفصل

£1.9m bankruptcy order made against men involved in gold fraud

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

A businessman publicly accused by Scotland Yard of being one of London's biggest unconvicted criminals was yesterday made bankrupt for £1.9m and jailed for four years as the organizer of a multi-million-pound value-added tax gold fraud.

Roy Garner, aged 48, of north London, was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court on two counts involving a VAT fraud of £2m on Krugerrands. He was also ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £240,000 which, if not met, will mean up to another two years in jail.

His son Mark, aged 21, and David Bullen, aged 37, of Arabia Close, Chingford, Essex, were also each made criminally bankrupt for £1.9m as well as being given sentences of six months and two years respectively.

The three men were involved in one of two companies used in the fraud and Judge Lowry, QC, told them they were separately or together responsible for more than £1.9m which has disappeared.

He told the three that each of them could indicate a starting point for recovering the money. During the case Bullen, who pleaded guilty, gave evidence for Garner claiming he had hidden the cash. Yesterday the judge told him he had "provided lies as you went along".

The judge, sentencing a total of six defendants, said the fraud had been tried before and might be attempted again. Severe punishment was needed but until next year's changes in the law he was limited to imposing penalties of two years' imprisonment.

The defendants were "parasites on society" using companies to defraud and manipulate the high rate of taxation, the judge said. Garner was a man of substance and, the judge



Roy Garner: Jailed for four years

Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Powis, then head-of-London-CID, gave evidence at the hearing that Garner was the subject of special police investigations. He was an associate of "habitual criminals" in Britain and the United States.

Mr Powis said: "Major crimes have to be set up with substantial sums and I believe it is in this area that Garner is involved. He has been involved in the worst kind of robberies... which ruthless and determined men arm themselves to take cash from armoured cars, vans, banks and other premises."

Det Supt Gerald Wiltshire, of the Yard's serious crimes squad, also told the Wood Green court that he believed Garner had been involved in five armed robberies, a conspiracy to rob, and a conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

The club owned by Garner, called "Elton's", in Tottenham, was the haunt of serious criminals involved in armed robberies, he said.

Garner denied the police allegations. During the hearing at Wood Green, he was cross-examined about the money he said he earned and his outings. He had a mortgage of nearly £100,000 on his home at Southgate, north London, and £170,000 was owed on Elton's. He claimed he earned £15,000 a year from the nightclub and between £6,000 and £10,000 a year in the export of horses.

After conviction last week, counsel for Garner said he had sold the nightclub and his annual earnings had dropped to £12,000.

Mr Wiltshire's investigations never resulted in any charges. When Garner was held by customs officers he refused to answer many of the 300 questions posed by Mr Wiltshire.



Soaring hopes: The Telecom Tower in London and (left) applications for British Telecom shares being opened by Mrs Christine Gutteridge at Lloyds Bank, Moorgate, London, yesterday (Photographs: Murray Job and Chris Harris).

Gallery ban for BT buyers

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

First-time investors who buy shares in British Telecom will not be able to see the shares start changing hands next week. The Stock Exchange said yesterday that it is closing its public gallery to members of the public next Monday afternoon when official dealings in British Telecom shares are scheduled to open.

The Stock Exchange is taking the step on safety grounds, a spokesman said. The gallery is built to hold only 120 people and the throng of press, television cameramen, and official visitors is expected to be so great that it will leave no room for the public.

The first dealings in British Telecom shares are due to begin at 3pm next Monday.

The opening of the New York stock market, where British Telecom shares are also being offered.

The Government's £3,900 million share offer closes formally tomorrow morning. As the Government hoped, the British Telecom issue has attracted a huge response from the public.

Dispute puts Royal Opera off the air

By David Hewson

Arts Correspondent
Productions from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, will not be heard on British radio for the foreseeable future because of a union dispute about their transmission.

Yesterday, the company gave a warning that rising costs may also force television versions of its productions from the screen, because of the price of new agreements signed between the BBC and performers' unions.

The effective blackout has infuriated the Opera House, which has no say in either of the two negotiations. The last radio broadcast from Covent Garden was 18 months ago and negotiations between Equity and the BBC over relay fees have reached deadlock.

Equity said yesterday: "At the moment our members in the chorus are offered £14 for a BBC radio relay. We don't want the earth but we don't think that is enough."

The effect of the dispute is that the BBC is now relaying operas from foreign houses.

The Royal Opera House's annual report published yesterday showed that due to a supplementary grant of £1,025 million and a special grant of £219,000, the company broke even during the year 1983-84, though house receipts fell £200,000 short of its budget of £6 million.

Average attendance at the Royal Opera was 89 per cent of capacity, 5 per cent higher than in the previous year, but the Royal Ballet's audience has fallen steadily from 92 per cent in 1979-80 to 85 per cent last year.

Fees paid to guest singers with the Opera House rose by 20 per cent to nearly £2,600.

Sir John Tooley, general director of the Royal Opera House, said that the comparison was unfair because guests were hired on the needs of an annual programme which varied from year to year.

Newspaper group to buy advert magazine

By Robin Young

One of Britain's most famous weekly publications is changing hands.

The parent publishing group of *Exchange & Mart*, Link House, is being bought by United Newspapers for £82.3 million.

Exchange & Mart is Britain's bargain weekly and a press baron's dream, with every column inch paid for by somebody else.

It was founded in 1868 by Edward Cox, Recorder of Helston and publisher of *Cockford's Clerical Directory*, to accommodate surplus small advertisements from his magazine, *The Queen*.

Originally it cost one penny, had four pages, a guaranteed circulation of 10,000 and a delightful innocence. An early advertisement, inserted at the rate of one penny stamp for 10 words, read: "I want a cricket ball. Will anyone say what they should like?"

EXCHANGE & MART
Now the weekly costs 35p, and holds as many as 20,000 advertisements in its 192 pages. Its circulation is nearly 250,000, and it claims a readership of 2.3 million.

Changing hands for £82.3 million

The advertisements are as diverse as ever. This week's issue offers everything from a snuffle bean bag for a dog to a parrot cage, from sheepskin flying jackets to sexy satin minis; from herbal hair formulae to rhino horns, and from bagpipes to vibrators. There are 104 pages in the motorists' supplement, advertising everything from citizen's band radios to cherished number plates.

Link House bid, page 17

Channel fares rise by £1 a head

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Cross-Channel fares will rise by £1 a head, to £10 one way throughout the year, from January 1, Townsend-Thoresen announced yesterday.

But the rise in car rates will be less than this year's and in some cases lower. The ferry company added, combining car and passenger rates, no family should have to pay more than 7 per cent more than this year, and by studying rates carefully they may be able to cross for the same price or less.

Townsend-Thoresen is the first cross-Channel company to

announce next year's tariff. Sealink and P & O are expected to follow its lead within the next few weeks.

Price rises in the summer peak period tend to be less pronounced than before, compared with the "shoulder" months of June and September, and off-peak winter months.

Examples are: Dover-Calais, August night sailing with Ford Escort, two adults and two children, £59, compared with £54 this year; Portsmouth-Cherbourg, August day sailing for the same family, £86 (£91).

BA cheap holidays may put brake on prices

By Our Transport Editor

Package holidays next year may not be so expensive after all in the wake of a cut-price offer from British Airways yesterday.

Its new Sovereign and Enterprise prices are up by between only 12 and 15 per cent compared with between 15 and 20 per cent offered by other big tour operators. Competitors made immediate accusations of "predatory" pricing.

That was denied by Mr Terry Grew, managing director of British Airways Holidays, who said that the new prices were the result of keen cost-cutting, and other operators might be forced to follow suit.

He said British Airways had cut advertising by £1 million, sought hotel rooms at competitive prices by waiting until a month after other operators had left the market, and saved money by buying foreign currency well forward.

"We have launched with low prices right from the start", Mr Grew said.

Big cuts in air fares from Britain to Brazil were made by British Caledonian yesterday, four months before it is due to hand the routes over to British Airways under a swap ordered by the Government as part of the British Airways privatization battle last summer.

Footprints in blood after killing

Footprints in blood betrayed the killer of teenage sweethearts, a jury at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

David Carty, aged 18, cut the throat of Robert Vaughan, aged 17, at the premises of the company where they worked, and then sexually assaulted and strangled the youth's girl friend Michelle Sadler, aged 17, Mr Allan Green, for the prosecution, said.

Mr Carty returned early the next day to Courier Display Systems in Union Street, Southwark, south London, loaded the bodies on to a trolley and wheeled them to a park where he left them in a damper truck, Mr Green said.

When the police saw Mr Carty, of Linsey Street, Rotherhithe, he denied having anything to do with the killings and claimed he had been shopping in the West End.

"But his trainer shoes were taken from him by the police and examined", Mr Green said. "It was found they had blood on them and the shoes matched footprints in blood which had been found in the corridor of the basement of the building in question."

Mr Carty denies murdering Robert Vaughan, of Cherry Gardens Street, Rotherhithe, and Michelle Sadler, of Chudleigh Street, Stepney, on February 4.

The trial continues today.



Has your portfolio got an Achilles' Heel?

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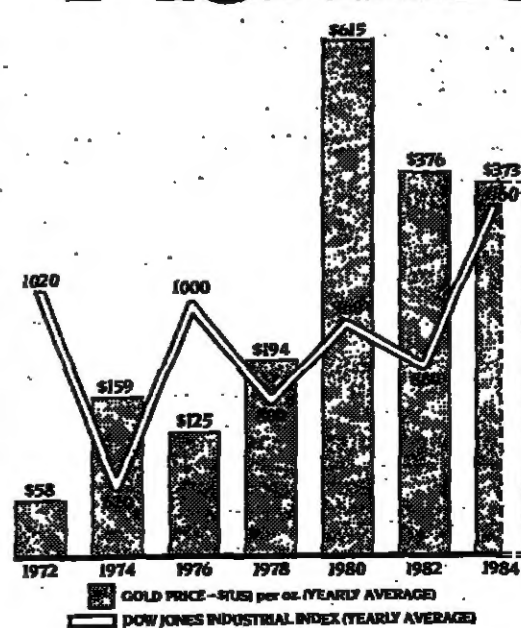
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The illustrated chart follows the relative performance of Gold and the Dow Jones Index since 1972 - Dollars and the US economy being the key indicators of world economic activity. The single 'hiccough' within the highly consistent pattern illustrated occurred in 1980, when the Dow Jones and the Dollar price of Gold rose together. The reason for this was the unusual combination of the US elections, Iran and Afghanistan, which triggered off an abnormal spasm of political insecurity.

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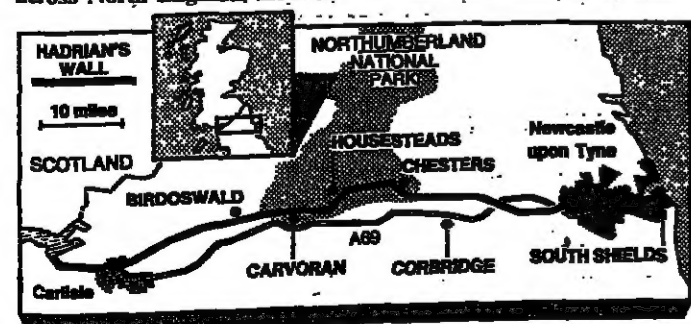
By Colin Hughes

The first plan for Hadrian's Wall since it was built nearly 2,000 years ago to keep marauding Picts at bay has been drawn up to save the wall from being overwhelmed by tramping tourists.

Although the monument to Roman engineering stretches 73 miles from coast to coast across North England, most of

its 150,000 visitors a year focus their interest - and boot soles - on a mere three to four miles in the middle.

The result, according to a strategy document published today by the Hadrian's Wall Consultative Committee, is that the area around the popular Homesteads fort is suffering erosion and crumbling collapse.



£1m a day for Christmas with ITV

Independent television's Christmas programmes will cost nearly £1 million a day to screen this year. Spread over 14 days of the holiday period, they are made up of top feature films, comedy and drama.

Among the performers will be Ernie Wise, George Cole, Denis Waterman, Mike Yarwood, Benny Hill, Des O'Connor, Jimmy Tarbuck, Freddie Starr, Shirley Bassey, Bruce Forsyth, Harry Secombe, Felicity Kendal, Boy George and the puppets from *Spitting Image*.

The feature films include *Raiders of the Last Ark*, Steven Spielberg's adventure starring

Harrison Ford, which will have its television premiere.

Others making their television debut include *Airplane!*, a parody of airport dramas, and *Gallipoli*, the box office hit about two young Australians on the road to adventure in 1915.

Two James Bond films will be screened - Roger Moore in *The Man with the Golden Gun*, and Sean Connery in *Dr No*.

Light entertainment will be highlighted by *Bring Me Sunshine*, the tribute to the late Eric Morecambe recorded with Ernie Wise as host at the London Palladium two weeks ago.

John Davidson, the comedian, new to the Falklands to make *Falklands Islands Special*.

A new production of *Frankenstein* will star Carrie Fisher, Robert Powell, David Warner and Sir John Gielgud. George Cole and Denis Waterman feature in a special edition of *Minder*, and Jean Simmons and Bryan Forbes appear in the television film *December Flower*.

A 90-minute musical will feature Kid Creole and the Coconuts, while the Darnley Duran pop group will appear in a documentary and a programme of an hour-long concert.

London is drugs capital, court told as two jailed after £1.5m cocaine haul

London has become the drugs capital of the world, a court was told yesterday.

American and Italian Mafia chiefs have chosen the city as a base for multi-million pound deals because they regard it as the most lucrative market anywhere and an ideal distribution point. Det Sgt Barry Strong, of Scotland Yard's drugs squad, said at the Central Criminal Court.

The court was told that three and a half million kilos of almost pure cocaine worth £1.5 million at street value was seized by detectives during a raid on a flat in Chiswick, west London. It was the largest haul of cocaine ever found by the Metropolitan Police.

Fernando Ortiz, aged 37, a Columbian, of Wellesley Road, Chiswick, was jailed for 10

years after being convicted of possessing and supplying cocaine. He was also fined £139,000 and recommended for deportation.

Gilbert Morgan, aged 32, a Jamaican, of Nell Gwynn House, Sloane Avenue, Chelsea, who acted as a "pinder" for the drugs, was jailed for three years. He was acquitted of possessing cocaine with intent to supply but found guilty of being in unlawful possession of the drug.

Judge Nina Lowry told them: "This case has revealed a picture of international cocaine dealing. It is plain from the evidence that clever and experienced criminals in this country, Italy, North and South America, have succeeded in making huge sums of money out of this evil trade."

The judge said that Ortiz was "well up in the hierarchy," but others had evaded capture. They included a suspected Mafia leader, Frederico Ronchi, aged 40, who rented a Belgravia flat, but managed to slip through the net and escape.

Mr Michael Austin-Smith, for the prosecution, told the court that Scotland Yard had acted swiftly after receiving information from the Italian police. They traced Ortiz and kept observation on his home.

Detectives found one and a half kilos of cocaine, wrapped in newspaper, and £39,000. A further two kilos were found in a safe deposit box.

Mr Austin-Smith said that drugs were being smuggled into the country through a big "Mafia-backed syndicate," and came originally from Colombia through Miami to London.

New home sought for musical museum

By David Cross

Mr Frank Holland, a frail former engineer, aged 74, is looking for a new home for the 50 tons of musical instruments which he has collected and lovingly restored. He is fed up with being pestered by vandals and having to clear debris from crumbling walls and a leaky roof.

For the past 21 years, between 200 and 300 bulky instruments have been gradually filling a former Victorian church off the M4 motorway in Brentford High Street in west London.

There is now so little room that he has had to get rid of 11 pianos on a five-year lease to Holdenby House in Northampton to leave space for the 3,000 people who visit each year.

Mr Holland, who lives in a 12ft by 9ft room in what used to be the vestry of St George's Church, was bitten by the collecting bug in the 1950s when he lived in Canada and began importing pianos from England for local schools.

He admits to having been something of a musical instrument fanatic since at least 1932 when he built his own automatic record player.

When he returned to London in 1958 he brought with him a fine automatic Steinway piano and 16 cases containing rolls of music. His expanding collection in a friend's house in



Mr Frank Holland with a Wurlitzer for his collection (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Hangar Lane, Ealing, with his Steinway and several other pianos soon drove him to look for other premises.

It was then that he found St George's. Since formally opening his Musical Museum to the

public in 1963, Mr Holland has travelled widely to look for items for his collection.

The instruments are insured for a total of £250,000, but their market value is probably closer to £500,000.

Mr Holland and his museum trustees have their eye on the former Odeon cinema in Twickenham to house the collection, and earlier this month launched an appeal for £500,000 towards its purchase.

Ombudsman censures DHSS for benefit delay

By Nicholas Timmins
Social Services
Correspondent

The Department of Health and Social Security has been found guilty of "inexcusable neglect" in taking more than 11 months to settle a claim for industrial disablement benefit for a Glasgow joiner aged 68 who died eight weeks before an award of £1,860 in back benefit was agreed.

Sir Cecil Clothier, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman), said the department was deplorably slow in handling the claim for asbestosis and the asbestos-related cancer mesothelioma, from which Mr Ronald Hill died, and that inspectors at two of the department's offices merited the strongest criticism.

In a report issued earlier this month, Sir Cecil said the department had assured him that "firm action has now been taken to ensure that nothing of this kind happens again".

Yesterday, however, Clyde-side Action on Asbestos, which supported Mr Hill's original claim in 1982, said that of 35 more cases submitted in March and April this year only 5 had so far been resolved.

"The department has taken eight months with the other cases and are well on target for the 11 months which the Ombudsman has condemned in Ron Hill's case," the action group said.

'Safety risks' to NHS workers

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Ten years of the Health and Safety at Work Act has had little impact on safety for staff and patients in the National Health Service, a health service union said yesterday.

Launching a campaign to improve standards, Mr John Edmonds, national officer of the General Municipal, Boiler-makers and Allied Trades Union, which has 60,000 health

service members, said: "There are a vast number of potential hazards to staff who work in the health service, often more than in most industrial workplaces".

Hazards that affected patients included fire, asbestos, infection and radiation, while the health service lost three quarters of a million working days a year and £52 million from back injuries to nurses.

Each year there are about 2,000 fires on health service premises, the union said. Many thousands of tons of asbestos in hospitals have yet to be identified and dealt with.

The union has four nursing members who have been unable to work after back injuries, with one nursing sister in a wheelchair after moving a patient on her own.

The law's delay: 2

Moves to accelerate Crown court trials

In the second of three articles FRANCES GIBB, Legal Affairs Correspondent, reports on efforts to speed up the process of bringing cases to Crown courts. Should there be a pre-trial time limit, and should the prosecution's case be disclosed early to encourage more people to plead guilty?

The Home Secretary and the Lord Chancellor have each launched a variety of offensives aimed at tackling the huge backlog of work and resulting delays in the criminal courts.

Two reforms in particular may have a dramatic effect on Crown court waiting times when they come into force, probably in 1986: the introduction of statutory time limits on detention before trial along the lines of those in Scotland; and the requirement that the prosecution disclose its case to the defence before trial.

Statutory time limits, called for by the Home Affairs Committee of MPs in May, are to be tested in a series of field trials with the aim of bringing them into force alongside the new independent prosecution service.

The idea is that a deadline, within which a case would have to be brought to trial, would inject a much-needed sense of urgency into proceedings. Where the deadline was breached, in all but few, defined circumstances, the case would have to be dropped and the defendant, if in custody, released.

In Scotland, where there is a 110-day limit for jury trial cases, defendants are rarely in custody for longer than that period. The Home Secretary has expressed concern that there is a prevailing attitude that "a case takes as long as it takes" with no incentive to encourage parties to bring cases to trial as quickly as they can, nor penalties for spinning them out.

Experiments will be devised to test appropriate time limits, with possible variations from area to area to take account, for instance, of the massive workload in London courts.

They will also put to the test fears expressed by the Lord Chancellor, who - with other judges - is opposed to time limits, on the ground that the "big fish" will escape the net by finding some excuse to go over the deadline; and also that cases will tend to be run up to the limit and not be prepared earlier. Others say that without more courts or judges, the idea is doomed to fail in a place such as London.

The second reform, also recommended by the MPs, involves implementation of section 48 of the Criminal Act 1977, involving pre-trial disclosure of the prosecution case.

At present many defendants elect trial by jury (where their case permits a choice) simply to know the case against them. At the last minute they often then change plea with resulting wastage in time and money for courts and lawyers.

The first one-year experiment on this reform in magistrates' courts in Newcastle upon Tyne has proved successful. Guilty pleas for cases triable either by jury or magistrates increased from 52 to 57 per cent and Crown court elections dropped from 30 to 25 per cent.

As the cost of a Crown court guilty plea is between three and four times that in the magistrates' court, there have been considerable savings to police, courts and legal aid. Police and prosecution savings alone, in reduced appearances and case preparation, were more than 10 times the cost of disclosing the prosecution case by summaries.

A second experiment in the Metropolitan area, where the not guilty plea rate is particularly high, has yet to be evaluated.

At the same time as those measures the Lord Chancellor has taken steps to increase the number of courtrooms and judges.

A massive Crown court building programme is under way, which since April 1980 has provided 30 more Crown courtrooms, 20 in the rest of the country, an increase in Crown courts from 339 to 386. They include complexes at Southwark in London, Liverpool, Leeds and Portsmouth.

More schemes are planned, to provide about 50 more courtroom complexes, including Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle and Isleworth. By the end of the decade there will be an extra 200 Crown courts, a net increase of 70.

The Lord Chancellor is also concerned to find more circuit judges. In spite of a 70 per cent rise in numbers since 1972 to a present total of 349, he considers that there is too great a reliance on part-time judges such as recorders and assistant recorders.

He is now conducting a "serious trawl" of the legal profession to find up to 10 per cent more circuit judges, and is seconding from the provinces to help out in London.

Tomorrow: The magistrates' courts.

Senior civil servant on secrets charge

A senior civil servant appeared in court yesterday accused of passing information under the official secrets act.

Alan Lowther, aged 44, of Bromfield Road, Surbiton, Surrey, an accounts management executive with the Home Office, was charged under section 2(1)(A) of the Act.

He was remanded on unconditional bail until December 17 by Bow Street magistrates, London.

It is alleged that Mr Lowther, a grade one civil servant, passed on a restricted document in June this year to an unauthorized person, Alan Joseph Connolly, a grade two civil servant employed in another department.



Mr Lowther in London yesterday

Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

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Vote of approval for Alfonsín in Beagle treaty referendum

From a Correspondent, Buenos Aires

The Beagle Channel treaty and the Argentine Government which negotiated it, have both received a strong vote of approval in a referendum here. Many observers believe that Argentina has also won an important indirect victory in its continuing dispute with Britain over the Falkland Islands.

Because of its timing, almost exactly a year after the Government of President Alfonsín took office, the referendum on Sunday was widely perceived as a test of popular support for the President and his administration.

With all but a handful of votes tabulated by yesterday, the proposal had been ratified by 77 per cent of those who cast their votes. They in turn represented 73 per cent of the 18.4 million electorate. The opposition Peronists had called for a boycott of the poll.

The Beagle treaty, which settles land and maritime rights at the desolate southern tip of the continent, took six years to negotiate, with Vatican mediation and was finally initiated on October 18. The quarrel between Argentina and Chile had gone on for more than a century and brought the countries to the brink of war in 1978.

The last two weeks of the debate on the proposed treaty were particularly partisan and heated, with the Peronists accusing the Government of treason, while the ruling Radicals branded the Peronist call for abstention an act of political destabilization, and comfort to "the friends of the dictatorship". There was at least one terrorist bombing and a reported plot to assassinate President Alfonsín.

Although the Government urged a "yes" vote on Sunday in the name of peace with its neighbour and Latin American unity, President Alfonsín himself became the focal point of the Government's campaign as referendum day neared.

The vote tally also attests to the divided and decadent state of the Peronists, who were unable to mount a common front against the referendum.

Throughout the campaign, Señor Alfonsín and other officials repeatedly referred to the dispute with Britain over the Falklands. Many here believe that when, as expected, the Beagle treaty is approved by Congress and signed into law, perhaps as early as November 28, it will enhance regional and international support for Argentina to the dispute.

Colorado Party scores easy win in Uruguay

From Douglas Tweedale, Montevideo

Julio María Sanguinetti of the centre-right Colorado party has won a surprisingly comfortable victory in Uruguay's first elections since 1971.

According to official figures released yesterday at the end of preliminary tallies, he won 38.5 per cent of votes cast, compared to 32.8 per cent for his nearest rival, Señor Alberto Zumaran of the Blanco party. The Frente Amplio, a coalition of left wing parties taking part in its second election, won 20.5 per cent, a slight improvement over its performance in 1971.

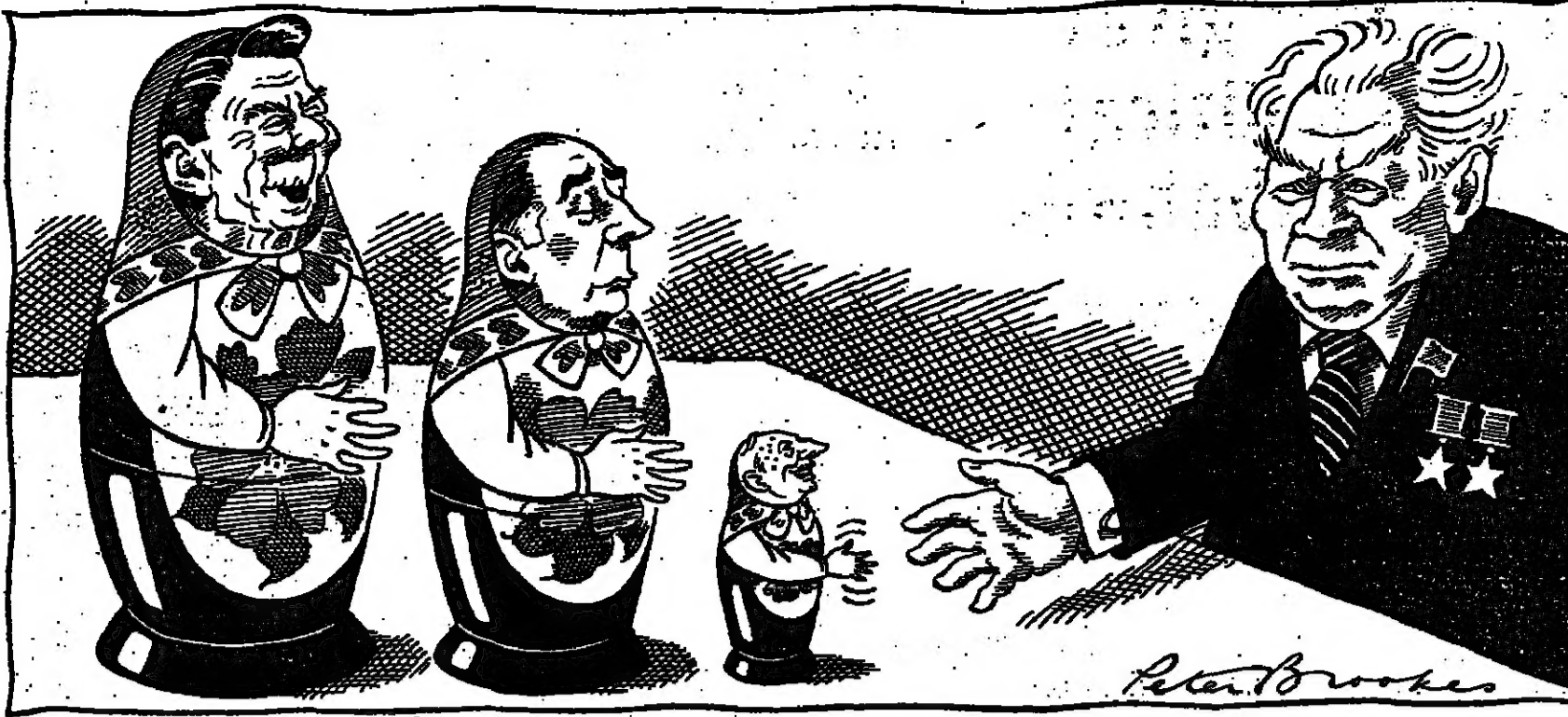
Señor Sanguinetti announced his victory before dawn yesterday vowing that he would seek to head a "government of national understanding" to lead the country from 11 years of military rule.

Señor Zumaran promised to collaborate with the winner "with men and ideas," thus apparently precluding the possibility that the Blanco party would challenge the election results as a fraud. Señor Zumaran was standing in for

the Blanco leader Señor Wilson Ferre ra Aldunate, who was arrested in June and did not stand in the election. The Colorado party victory was based on a strong favourable vote in Montevideo, where the Frente Amplio failed to win an expected victory in the municipal race. Nevertheless, diplomatic sources said, the election "clearly establishes the Frente Amplio as a third force to be dealt with."



Señor Sanguinetti: Ending military rule.



Compromise near on Gibraltar

From Ian Murray

An agreement to settle the profound argument over Gibraltar between Britain and Spain is being sought in Brussels between Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Señor Fernando Morán, his Spanish opposite number.

Señor Morán flew to Brussels yesterday to hold a special session on Gibraltar with Sir Geoffrey during a three-day meeting of EEC ministers on the question of enlargement. The two were scheduled to discuss the problem yesterday evening, but were prepared to put off a final agreement until after the European summit in Dublin at the beginning of next week.

Both sides were believed to have made considerable progress towards reaching a compromise settlement of the problem, which led General Franco to close the border between the colony and Spain.

European notebook, page 8

US wants urgent arms talks

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration wants to plunge into actual arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union in January, soon after Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, meet in Geneva to work out arrangements for reopening negotiations.

It is expected that Mr Paul Nitze, the 77-year-old former negotiator at the suspended intermediate-range (INF) missile talks in Geneva, will be named as the special US envoy to oversee the various rounds of arms talks once they get under way.

Mr Richard Burt, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, who will accompany Mr Shultz to the Geneva meeting on January 7-8, said yesterday that Washington's top priority was "to get the negotiating process under way again. We'd like to get the negotiations started actually in Geneva in January and we will be working to that end."

Mr Burt emphasized that the United States was not prepared to accept Soviet preconditions for resuming arms control talks, which have been in abeyance since Moscow walked out of the Geneva INF negotiations a year ago.

The Americans would consider concessions once talks get under way, however. "There are forms of mutual restraint we are prepared to negotiate about once negotiations get under way, but we are not going to pay a price to get back to the table," Mr Burt said on NBC's Today programme.

US officials have been at pains to emphasize that the talks, once they get going, could drag on for a long time and it might take President Reagan's full four-year term to negotiate verifiable arms-control agreements with Moscow.

"We have no illusions that [an agreement] will happen overnight," Mr Robert McFarlane, the President's National Security Adviser, said in a weekend television interview.

BRUSSELS: Belgium should not allow Nato to deploy 48 cruise missiles on its soil from next March as planned while there is a chance of the Soviet-US talks succeeding, the executive of the Flemish Christian Democrat Party decided yesterday (Jan Murray writes).

The party is the leading member of the coalition Government. Mr Frank Swaelen, the party president, said work on preparing the site at Florennes for the cruise launchers should go ahead.

Nato sources still felt Belgium would honour its promise to station the missiles since the party's view would have to be accepted by the other three parties making up the Government. The Flemish Liberals, who strongly support deployment, have threatened to bring down the Government if Belgium breaks its promise.

LONDON: The Soviet Union has taken the unusual step of briefing Britain on Moscow's decision to reenter arms negotiations with the United States (Henry Stanhope writes).

Mr Victor Popov the Russian Ambassador, called on the Foreign Office yesterday at his own request and spent 25 minutes with Mr Richard Luce, a Minister of State, outlining the background.

Polls give Peacock TV victory

From Tony Duboulin

"Phone-in" opinion polls gave Mr Andrew Peacock, the Opposition leader, the edge over Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, in the country's first television election debate between political leaders.

The polls, conducted by the three commercial television stations, scored the debate 56-44, 51-49 and 51-49 in Mr Peacock's favour, while the Australian Broadcasting Corporation put the Opposition leader 70-30 ahead.

The debate concentrated heavily on the domestic issues of taxation, the assets test for pensioners, the tax on lump sum superannuation payments, and crime.

The debate came to life when a questioner referred to a news agency story yesterday that the telephone of Mr Brian Toowoey, editor of the National Times news magazine, was being tapped by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation.

The Prime Minister said he did not intend to comment on such areas but that he would be "very surprised if there were extensive taps on journalists, and not only surprised, I would be totally amazed."

The crime issue surfaced when Mr Peacock was asked if he could substantiate his claim that "things are rotten in New South Wales", given his earlier statement in Parliament under privilege that the Prime Minister was "a crook".

Letters, back page

Hijackers extend deadline again

Addis Ababa (AFP) - The three armed hijackers of a Somali airliner holding 108 passengers and crew hostage at Addis Ababa airport agreed last night to extend a deadline for blowing up the aircraft and all on board until 8 am local time today.

It was the fourth extension since the aircraft was hijacked over Somalia and diverted to the Ethiopian capital on Saturday. Their last deadline, at noon yesterday, expired without incident.

The new delay was at the request of Ethiopia which, a spokesman said, was anxious to avoid bloodshed. The gunmen are demanding that Somalia frees 13 prisoners and reprieves seven youths they say are due for execution.

Karpov calls a time-out

Moscow (Reuters) - The world chess champion, Anatoly Karpov, called a time-out yesterday, delaying the start of the 28th game in the world title match until tomorrow. Karpov, who leads 5-0, needs only one more win to retain his title.

It was also a rest day in the Chess Olympiad at Salniko, where the Russian team still lead after beating Yugoslavia 3-1 on Sunday night.

Wrong funeral

Sioux City, Iowa (AP) - A heavily-bandaged Patricia Noonan, aged 16, believed by her family to have died in a car crash two weeks ago, awoke in hospital from a coma and is well on the way to recovery. Her friends were misled by a mistake in identification led to the burial of the dead girl under the wrong name.

Germs riddle

Buffalo (AFP) - The FBI is trying to learn the motive of two Canadians arrested here last week in possession of deadly tetanus and botulism bacilli. Kevin Birch, aged 36, and James Cahoon, aged 33, have pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy and fraud and are free on bail.

Stage collapses

Chicago (AP) - A concert by the British rock group Frankie Goes To Hollywood was held here when the floor beneath the stage collapsed under the weight of the audience. No one was reported injured and the show resumed after a 30-minute delay.

Refugee ferry

Trelleborg, Sweden (AFP) - About 65 Iraqi and Iranian refugees arrived in this southern Swedish port by ferry from East Germany and asked for political asylum. They were the latest of an estimated 2,000 refugees to have arrived by that route this year.

Daughter sold

Katmandu (AFP) - A Nepalese court sentenced a woman to 20 years imprisonment for selling her 18-year-old daughter in India for about £40. Three accomplices received similar sentences.

McQueen sale

Las Vegas (Reuters) - More than 1,500 film fans and antique of the late Steve McQueen at a Las Vegas auction. The fire helmet he wore in The Towering Inferno fetched \$1,100 (about £500).

Ershad accused

Dhaka (Reuters) - Opposition parties in Bangladesh criticized President Ershad's decision to extend his tenure as army chief, for a year, accusing him of ignoring popular demand for a swift return to civilian rule.

Factory deaths

Vienna (Reuters) - At least 13 workers were killed when part of a factory in the central Czechoslovak town of Uhersky Hradiste collapsed for unspecified reasons, Prague radio said.

Priest freed

Seville (Reuters) - Father Cristian Biales, aged 58, a Spanish Jesuit priest who was arrested in connexion with the murder of a four-year-old boy, has been freed without charge.

Colombia aid

Britain has approved an immediate grant of £25,000 to help victims of severe floods in Colombia.

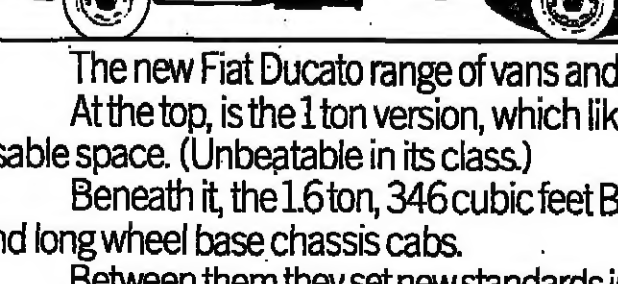
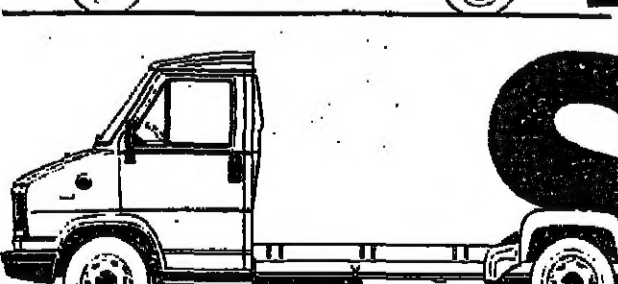
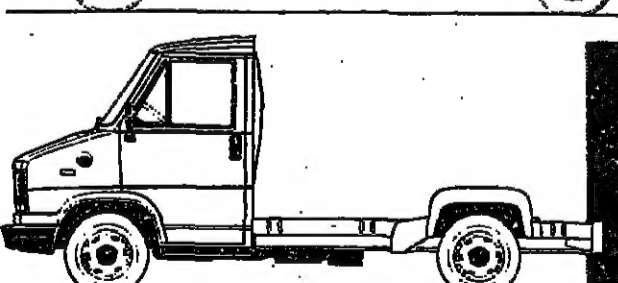
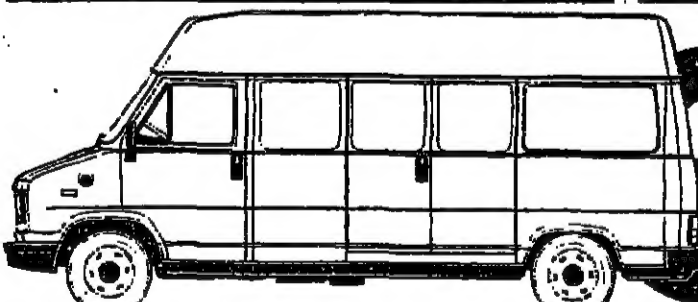
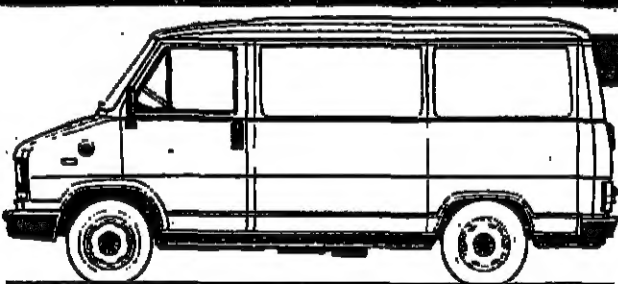
Bible saves

The Hague (AFP) - A bible saved the life of a woman Jehovah Witness when a householder here, angered at being awakened by her on a Sunday morning, fired a powerful argon at her. The bible took the full force of the slug.

Correction

A despatch from Sir Lanka on November 20 quoted residents as saying that the army went on a rampage after a Colonel was killed, and that four people were reported shot dead. That has been shown to be untrue.

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RAF may stay in famine zone

From Charles Harrison

Nairobi
Mr Timothy Raison, the Minister for Overseas Development, who is visiting Ethiopia to see the relief operation, watched two RAF teams at work yesterday ferrying food and supplies for victims of the famine.

The Hercules transport planes are running a non-stop shuttle service, and with other aircraft ensuring a steady flow of material from the port of Assab to the aid posts in the famine-affected areas inland.

Officials say the operation has been so successful that it has exhausted supplies in Assab. They are now waiting for the arrival of more ships carrying grain and other basic foods, which are expected in the next few days.

Today Mr Raison is due to have discussions with officials about the famine relief programme. They are expected to press him to allow the RAF teams to remain in Ethiopia to continue their work.

However most food supplies will continue to be distributed by road because of the large volume involved.

LONDON: At least two million people in Ethiopia will die within the next 12 months unless drastic action is taken on an international scale to help them, a United Nations official said yesterday (Thomson Press writes).

Mr Djibril Diallo, regional information officer for Africa of the UN development programme, said in London that drought and famine in Ethiopia, Senegal, Chad and Burkina



Grim warning: Mr Diallo, who has just returned from the famine areas of Africa (Photograph: David Osborn).

Faso now threatened 150 million Africans.

He described how a mother in a famine refugee camp at Bati in Ethiopia begged him to take her child because she could not feed it, and how the infant died in his arms. "No war, no earthquake, could have prepared me for what I saw at Bati," he said. Thirty people had died in a single morning while he was there.

He said that "impending disaster" loomed over Chad, now suffering its worst drought in living memory. Thousands of people had starved to death in recent months.

"This is happening at the harvest time, the best time of the year. If people are running away now, what will happen in the dry season, a few months from now?" he asked.

Leading article, page 15

Marcos on TV looks tired and weak

From Keith Dalton

Manila
President Marcos met senior members of his Cabinet and the National Assembly yesterday for the first time since disappearing from public view 13 days ago, amid rumours that he was seriously ill or even dying.

Mr Marcos was shown in a two-minute film clip on government television seated at his desk in the presidential palace, signing the \$2.9bn (£2.4bn) 1985 national budget.

Cabinet and government parliamentarians gathered around the 67-year-old President while his wife, Imelda,

stood with her husband's personal physician, Dr Eduardo Jomara, in a corner away from the glare of television lights.

"This will put an end to all the doubts in the world," Mr Marcos said in a weak voice.

The budget was passed on November 13, the day on which Mr Marcos disappeared. It was originally to have been signed last week, but the President's ill health delayed what is traditionally a public ceremony.

The unexpected signing caught opposition parliamentarians off guard. They complained that they received

invitations only minutes before the signing ceremony and consequently no opposition MP was in attendance.

Mr Marcos appeared weak and tired. His movements were slow and he wore a white jacket, while most of those around him were in shirt sleeves.

The President's former Information Minister, Mr Francisco Tansil, reported last week that Mr Marcos had undergone kidney and heart surgery in secret. This was denied by Dr Jomara. The President had nothing more than early signs of influenza, he said.

Letters, back page

Letters, back page

Murder of MP gives new twist to political violence in Zimbabwe

From Jan Raath, Harare

A militant ZAPU MP has been shot dead on his farm in Matabeland North, in a new twist to the political violence in Zimbabwe. The victim, Mr Jini Ntuta, aged 60, was a veteran aide of Mr Joshua Nkomo, the ZAPU president, and secretary for security on the party's national executive.

His death on Sunday follows the assassination on November 9 of a senator of the ruling ZANU (PF) party in the southern border town of Beit-

bridge. Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, blamed ZAPU for the killing.

Mr Ntuta was at his farm in Nymandlovu, north of Bulawayo, when he disturbed two men dressed in civilian clothes but both armed, sources said.

They opened fire and chased him for nearly two miles. Mr Ntuta discarded his heavy boots so he could run faster, but he was caught and shot twice in the back.

The gunmen are then thought to have walked to the main road to Bulawayo, where they were picked up and driven in the direction of the city.

Ziana, the government-sponsored news agency, reported

that the killing had been carried out by "bandits", as guerrillas who openly align themselves with ZAPU are called.

So far guerrillas have concentrated on striking at government and ZANU (PF) officials and white farmers. The killing of a man of Mr Ntuta's stature and record in denouncing the Government would be a total reversal of the pattern of the past two years.

Mr Nkomo was at home yesterday, but did not answer his telephone. Local reporters described him as visibly upset. He would not comment, saying that police were still questioning witnesses.

Pretoria angered by Angolan publicity

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa has made public details of its response to recent Angolan proposals offering to link the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola to independence for Namibia under a regional peace settlement.

Mr B. F. "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, said he had been forced to take the step because Angola had violated an understanding that details proposals, having been widely leaked, were set out at length in a full page advertisement taken out by the Luanda Government in *The Times* on Saturday.

Mr Botha said the publicity given to the proposals had "placed in question the Luanda Government's ability to conduct serious negotiations".

In essence, Angola's offer involved the phased withdrawal and repatriation over a three-year period of most of the 30,000 Cubans stationed there. During the first two years, however, the Cubans would not leave Angola, but would be moved in batches to a point north of the thirteenth parallel, more than 300 miles north of the border with Namibia.

At the end of three years, about 10,000 troops would remain to protect Luanda and northern parts of the country. The whole process would start at the same time as the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 435, which calls for a ceasefire in Namibia between

South Africa and Swapo guerrillas and elections and independence within seven months.

Not unexpectedly, South Africa's counter proposals envisage a different timetable. The Cubans strength must be reduced from 30,000 to 12,000 men within six weeks of starting the resolution process, to 8,000 within nine weeks and none within 12 weeks - by which time South Africa's military presence in Namibia would have been cut back to 1,500 men.

Pretoria also seeks a joint peace commission to monitor and verify the Cuban withdrawal which should be allowed to move freely about Angola. The Cubans must not be replaced by an other surrogate force, and East German, Soviet and other communist advisers must be limited and their function and whereabouts made known to South Africa.

It is clear that hard bargaining is needed to reconcile the two positions. As they stand, the Angolan plan would appear to mean that for at least a year-and-a-half after Namibian independence not a single Cuban soldier would have left Angola.

South African press comment, apparently reflecting the record government briefings, has dismissed their proposed movement to the north as a ploy by Luanda to strengthen its position against the rebel Unita movement of Dr Jonas Savimbi.

US-Iraqi agreement on envoys

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The slow thaw in relations between the US and Iraq led to an agreement by the countries yesterday to exchange ambassadors for the first time in 17 years.

President Reagan and Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, met at the White House to seal the agreement. The US will continue its official policy of neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war, Iraq broke off diplomatic relations with the US during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war because of Washington's support for Israel.

In many ways the US is still unsure about Iraq but has welcomed Baghdad's steady move towards identification with more moderate Arab states.

To US satisfaction, Iraq has progressively reduced its dependence on Moscow. It has a tense relationship with Syria, a close ally of the Soviet Union.

Iraq, however, has good relations with Jordan, Saudi Arabia and other moderate oil-rich Gulf states.

Under the 1982 Middle East peace initiative President Reagan wants Jordan to join Palestinian autonomy negotiations with Egypt and Israel. But so far King Hussein has refused and recently has been publicly critical of US policies in the Middle East.

Army's big gamble launched in Beirut

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The boys selling chewing gum and lottery tickets outnumbered the Lebanese soldiers beside the Camel Abdel Nasser mosque yesterday morning.

The national lottery tickets cost 10 Lebanese pounds - just over £1 - but the troops at the checkpoint half way down Corniche Mazraa were playing for the highest stakes.

They were, during the morning at least, one of the few visible signs of the Government's new security plan, an ambitious scheme supported by the Syrians to place all of Beirut under the control of the national army. The seven soldiers by the mosque dutifully waved cars through their checkpoint and rather politely asked the occasional driver to open the boot of his vehicle.

At Khalde, the Shia Muslim Arab militia would have it be known that they positively welcomed the Army.

Yes, said a 21-year-old gunman, the Army could take over Amal's last checkpoint on the approaches to Beirut any time they wanted. Then he could travel south to fight the Israelis.



Search for peace: A Lebanese Army soldier checking for weapons on the Corniche Mazraa yesterday as Beirut's new security plan got off to a quiet start.

Yes, said First Lieutenant Hussein Assi, of the Army's Sixth Brigade 100 yards away, the militias had promised to cooperate. The military council at Yaze had just cancelled all militia permission to carry weapons through army checkpoints.

Lieutenant Assi sounded confident enough, although the huge militia anti-aircraft gun that trundled through his checkpoint five minutes earlier

had not done a lot for his credibility.

In the area of the ruined hotels along the Beirut front line, the Sixth Brigade paraded two of their armoured vehicles through the streets, then put their men, rocket launchers in hand, on the rubble by the old Hilton Hotel.

It looked efficient enough, although the Druze militiaman on the eastern embankment across the street commented

unhappily: "We have orders from our officials that if anything goes wrong, of course we will have to come down on to the streets militarily."

The only really optimistic forecast came from Private Samir Salibi, from the Army's Fifth Brigade in East Beirut, who quoted the Lebanese President to the effect that the salvation of Beirut would lead to the salvation of Lebanon. Time, as they say, will tell.

Gulf moderates seek to readmit Egypt

From Edward Mortimer, Kuwait

Arab Gulf states are working actively to convene an Arab summit which would bring Egypt back into the fold. This was stated publicly here yesterday by the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber.

Egypt must be readmitted "by agreement", Sheikh Sabah said. He did not, however, rule out the decision being taken by majority vote rather than by consensus, which has been the

Arab League tradition. The issue is important because Syria has made no secret of its determination to veto any such decision.

Sheikh Sabah was speaking at a press conference here to launch the fifth summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

He also made clear that these six conservative Arab states recognized the legitimacy of the

Palestine National Council now meeting in Amman, and regarded Iran rather than Iraq as responsible for the continuation of the Gulf war.

The three-day summit is thus likely to highlight the existence of a moderate Arab bloc stretching from Morocco to Iraq, including both Egypt and Mr Yasser Arafat's PLO, and held together by fear of Iran and Syria. But neither of these two countries is likely to be condemned by name.

Student unrest closes Cairo university

Cairo - Al-Azhar University, Cairo's thousand-year-old seat of learning, closed yesterday for two weeks after days of student demonstrations (Alice Brinton writes).

The protests began on Wednesday when Mr Mohsin Al-Sheik, a student in the Faculty of Commerce was killed by a police lorry. By Sunday night about 300 students had been taken into custody.

Mitterrand mending fences in Damascus

From Our Own Correspondent, Beirut

President Mitterrand of France and Vice-President Rifaat al-Assad of Syria arrived in Damascus yesterday to different receptions. The French head of state was met by President Hafiz al-Assad at Damascus airport with an honour guard and a 21-gun salute. Colonel Rifaat apparently arrived from Paris earlier and his arrival was not recorded.

As the Syrians have been anxious to quash reports of a power struggle, and as the colonel, who is the President's brother, has been in Paris for a long time, there was no official announcement of his homecoming.

Diplomats in Damascus suspect that things have been patched up in the Syrian hierarchy, although they emphasize that President Assad is now in perfect health and has no intention of relinquishing power.

President Mitterrand, on the first visit by a French head of state since Syrian independence in 1943, left Damascus airport in the company of President Assad for talks that are likely finally to repair relations between the two countries after the intervention of the French air force against Syrian troops in Lebanon in 1983.

● AMMAN: The Palestine National Council has decided to expel three opponents of the Palestinian leader, Mr Yasser Arafat, amid continuing moves to bolster support for him in the parliament in exile (Reuters reports).

The council voted 149 to two to expel Mr Ahmed Jibril, leader of the Libyan-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command faction, and two of his senior aides, Mr Fadi Shurrouh and Mr Riyad Saad.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Turkey: Mumtaz Kotan

By Caroline Moorehead

A 42-year-old lawyer from Ankara, imprisoned in Diyarbakir military prison since April 1980, is believed to have been tortured repeatedly since his arrest.

Mumtaz Kotan is a Kurd and he has been sentenced to eight years in prison to be followed by two years and eight months internal exile, on charges of belonging to the illegal Kurdish organization Rikari. He has not been charged with any involvement in violent activities.

This is Mumtaz Kotan's second prison sentence. In 1971 he was arrested and tried for membership of a Kurdish cultural organization. In his defence speech, he upheld the Kurdish language and culture and stated that he believed Kurds were being wrongly oppressed. He was then sentenced to 16 years in prison, but released after the general amnesty of 1974.

There have been several hunger strikes at Diyarbakir military prison to protest against torture and prison conditions. In August last year, Mumtaz Kotan's health was said to have been critical because of repeated torture.



Mr Kotan: Tortured many times since arrest.

UN rejects North Korea 'bunkum' on death clash

From David Watts, Tokyo

North Korean Army officers stared grimly at a video monitor in Panmunjom yesterday as a fresh-faced young Russian defector told United Nations officers he had fled to South Korea of his own free will.

"It was a quite voluntary decision, yes. I would like to stress voluntary," Mr Vasily Yakovlevich Matuzok said in excellent English. "I don't want to go back to the North Koreans."

"I decided to defect approximately two years ago when I was a fifth-year student of the Moscow Institute of International Relations."

The video interview was the highlight of a four-hour meeting of the Korean Military Armistice Commission called to study what the United Nations Command calls the grave breach of the ceasefire agreement since the end of the Korean War in 1953. One South Korean and three North Korean soldiers died in a gun battle after Mr Matuzok crossed the frontier into the south on Friday.

The Russian, who said he had been working at the Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang, said the gun battle started as North

Korean guards chased him for some 70 yards inside South Korea.

Yesterday's gathering was in graphic contrast to the last two meetings of civilians at Panmunjom in recent weeks, in which north and south agreed to both the opening of economic talks and full scale Red Cross meetings.

Both sides traded accusations, charges and counter-charges. In blunt American military fashion Admiral Charles Horne, the chairman of the United Nations delegation to the commission, dismissed the North Korean allegations as "bunkum".

The meeting ended inconclusively but the way has been left open for further meetings should either side request them. It is clear, however, as the Korean News Agency underlined in a commentary, that North Korea is determined to keep the demilitarized zone shooting a purely military issue between itself and the United Nations Command, in an attempt to preserve the new atmosphere of "friendliness" between the two Koreas, by laying most of the blame at the door of the United States.

Danube power station project approved

Vienna - A plan to build a power station in one of Austria's nature reserves at Hainburg on the Danube, was approved by an Austrian Government environment committee yesterday (Richard Bassett writes).

The plan has been consistently opposed by conservationists, including the Duke of Edinburgh, who as president of the World Wildlife Fund spoke out against it earlier this year.

The wildlife fund yesterday accused the Austrian Government of falsifying evidence and said it would take court action.

French settlers fly children to safety of capital

Noumea (Reuters)-Extra flights have been laid on to take children of white French settlers to the New Caledonian capital of Noumea as militant Melanesians step up their independence campaign.

Airline sources said the flights would carry children from the western towns of Kouma, Gomen, Voh and Koua to relatives in the capital for safety.

The Melanesians, or Kanaks, continue to block roads in the region as part of a disruption campaign in the French Pacific territory.

Lemnos dispute threatens Nato meeting

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Nato is taking action to prevent a Greek-Turkish difference over the Greek island of Lemnos from distracting its defence ministers' meeting in Brussels next week. A senior Nato official has been to Ankara to talk to the Turks, who are threatening to block Nato's defence programme for 1985.

The row erupted when Greece told Nato in its reply to

this year's defence Planning Questionnaire, that it was allocating to the alliance one Greek Army brigade and two fighter squadrons stationed on Lemnos.

Nato has hitherto treated Lemnos as an area in litigation. Turkey claimed that the island should be demilitarized under the Lausanne Treaty of 1923, while Greece insisted that those restrictions had been rescinded by the Montreux Convention of 1936.

Because of this difference

Nato refused to include Lemnos in its war games in the Aegean, although the island is strategically located near the mouth of the Dardanelles and possesses a first-rate airbase. As a result Greece has boycotted all Nato manoeuvres in the Aegean.

After Greece's unilateral offer to allocate its Lemnos forces to the alliance, an acknowledgment from Nato would, according to the Turkish argument, imply that the alliance endorsed Greece's right to keep troops on the island.

3500 years ago the wisest man who ever lived made an observation of stunning simplicity. "There is nothing new under the sun," he said.

To be perfectly honest he should have added, "Except the price." As an example, look what's happened in the last 20 years to a few of the things it would be rather nice to look forward to.

A 5 bedroom farmhouse with a few acres in the home counties has gone from £12,000 to nearly £200,000.

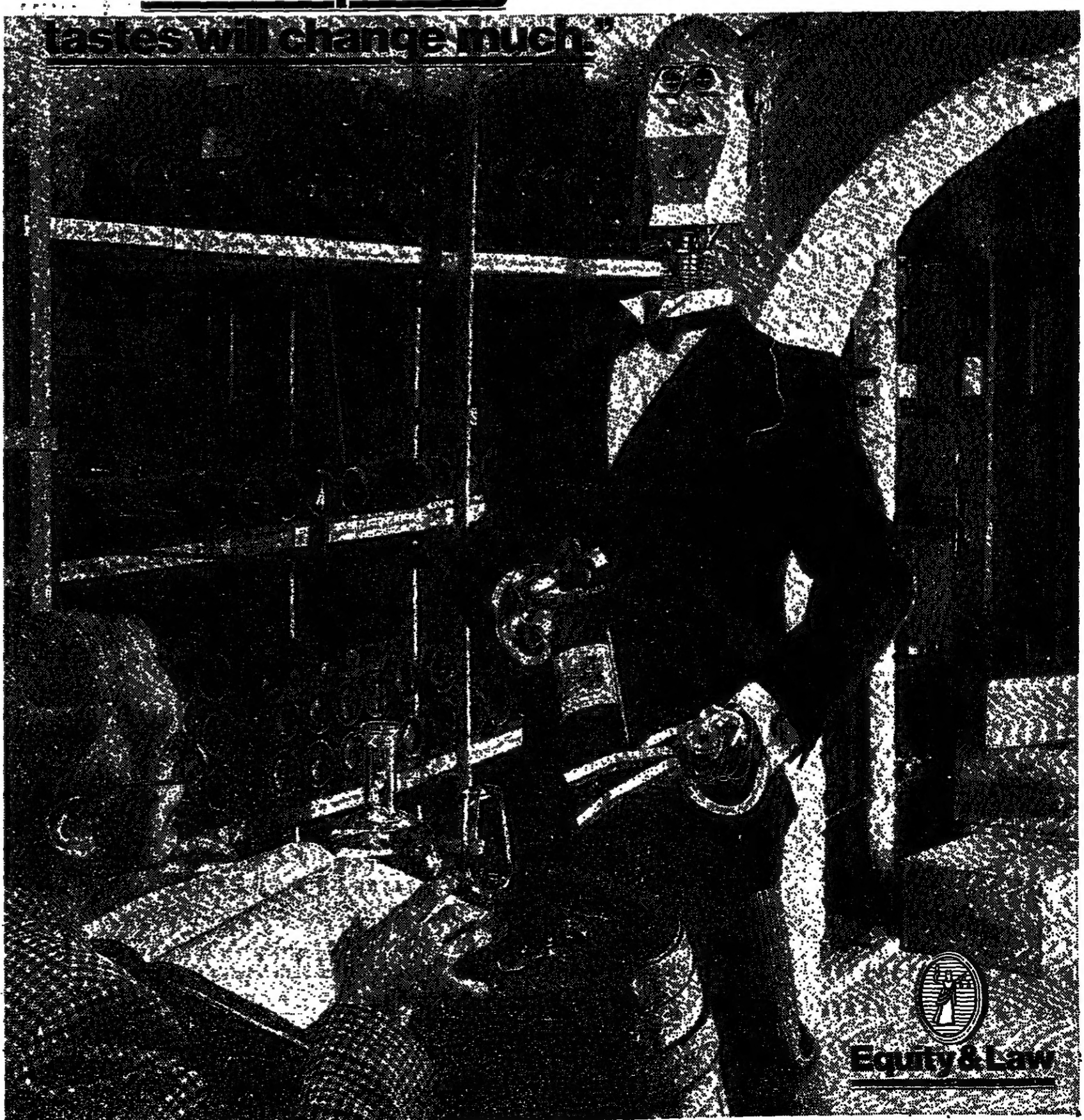
An XKE Jaguar was £1,850. Its replacement, the XJS, will set you back around £20,000.

And the price of 61 Lafite has doubled 6 times from £3.50 to over £250 a bottle.

Very scary figures if you apply them to the next 20 years.

"Whatever the future holds

I don't expect my



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Peking clears the way for port visits by US warships

Peking (Reuters) - Peking will allow US warships to make ceremonial calls at Chinese ports for the first time since the 1949 communist takeover. Mr Hu Yaobang, the Communist Party General Secretary, has said.

The symbolic move to cement growing military collaboration between the United States and China follows discussions in Washington this month on possible US help in modernizing China's Navy.

"American warships will be allowed to visit China's ports if they are on ceremonial call and the request is made through diplomatic procedures," Mr Hu told a group of visiting Japanese industrialists.

His remarks, reported yesterday by the official *China Daily* newspaper, also followed talks in Peking this summer involving Mr John Lehman, the US Navy Secretary, about a possible port call by American destroyers. Western military sources said the two sides discussed a visit next year to the Yellow Sea port of Qingdao, but final arrangements had not been made.

A Chinese naval delegation headed by Admiral Chen Youming is now in the United States and the sources said China is interested in obtaining

the modern gas-turbine engines used in US destroyers.

Both China and the United States are worried by the growing Soviet naval presence in the Pacific and South China Sea.

They said China, with increased oil exploration along its coast, would like to boost its naval capability. A senior naval delegation, has just visited Britain for a tour of naval bases and armaments factories.

China's navy has 360,000 men, 35 major surface combat ships, two nuclear powered submarines and around 100 diesel attack submarines.

The semi-official *China News Service* said this month China was developing a new generation of tactical and strategic missiles, but other high technology items have to be imported.

● **TRADE BOOST:** Sino-Soviet trade is set to rise by 60 per cent this year and the estranged communist giants may establish a joint committee to increase it further, according to Mr Hu. The Communist Party chief was quoted in *China Daily* (Reuters reports) as saying further increases in trade between the two neighbours were expected next year.

Stalinist emigré arrested in Poland

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

The Polish police have arrested and are interrogating one of the most bizarre political opponents of General Jaruzelski: a stooped 74-year-old former minister who, out of love for Stalin, defected to Albania in 1966 and recently smuggled his way back in to Warsaw, where he has been stuffing illegally-printed tracts through embassy letter boxes.

While Mr Kazimierz Mijal was in Albanian exile he styled himself general secretary of the "Interim Central Committee of the Polish Communist Party", and organized what was effectively a Stalinist Government-in-waiting.

The texts of the leaflets which his secret organization has been printing in Poland show that he has abandoned none of his fervent commitment to Stalinism. General Jaruzelski "has sold out socialism", one broadcast said.

Mr Mijal was a leading figure in the Stalinist Poland of President Boleslaw Bierut, serving as head of the private chancery, then as minister for Local Economy. But when Wladyslaw Gomulka came to power in October 1956, Mr Mijal was forced to relinquish his ministry and was demoted to director of the state investment bank. When he lost that job, he approached the Albanian Embassy, complaining of persecution.



Two in Solidarity: Mr Waleza (right) and his adviser, Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, at Mass in Gdansk on the day after their meeting with Cardinal Glemp.

Mr Mijal appears to have reentered Poland in the summer of 1983. According to the Polish authorities his secret organization consists of little more than a score of old men.

But the timing of the arrest may be significant: the Polish authorities say that it is committed to finding the instigators of the murder of the Solidarity priest, Father Jerzy Popieluszko. The authorities seem to agree that the motives behind the murder must have been to destabilize the Jaruzelski leadership and under-

mine the rather fragile working relationship between the state and the Catholic Church.

The aims of the Mijal group are certainly in line with such motives. But clearly the murder of the priest required more planning and more resources than was at the disposal of the Mijal group.

Mr Mijal faces charges of membership of an illegal association, of entering Poland illegally.

● The Polish leadership appears to be bracing itself for significant personnel changes at a

plenary session of the Central Committee next month. Diplomatic analysts see General Jaruzelski's short trips to Hungary and East Berlin as a way of preparing the ground for ousting some hardliners.

● Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the Polish Primate, has left Rome for talks with the Pope on the aftermath of the Popieluszko affair. The Primate saw Mr Lech Waleza, the Solidarity leader, on Saturday and they discussed the social response to the murder of the priest.

New mood at the Vatican

Fearful critics hold an uneasy peace



Peter Nichols reports from Rome in the first of three Articles on the developing style and content of the pontificate of Pope John Paul II.

A new class of prelate, now clearly discernible at the Vatican, might properly be described as consisting of orphans of the Second Vatican Council.

They are fearful about the direction in which the Pope is leading the Church yet are loath to criticize him in public. Strong in expressing their views in private, they avoid anything which might sound like open opposition to what is happening: even private complaints are accompanied invariably by a request that their names are not mentioned. In part this is due to loyalty to the Church's leader, especially in the case of John Paul II. Few if any of his critics omit to praise his obvious virtues, the international prestige which he has given the papacy and the strength of his beliefs.

This lack of public criticism is something new. A class of views and frequent attacks on Rome were an essential part of the whole council experience. One reason why criticism is seldom heard now - though disagreement with what the Pope is doing is often deeply felt - is that potential critics feel criticism no longer helps. One example frequently heard concerns the Pope's insistence on talking about sex. He is seen to have taken the papacy's position back beyond anything that his predecessors had done and so has made any change by Rome on the question of birth control even more difficult. The immediate point, however, is not so much his teaching but the sometimes almost incredulous reaction provoked by his regular homilies on this over-worked subject.

Surely someone in the Roman Curia, the Church's central government, could tell him that, for instance, a lengthy talk such as that delivered at a recent public audience on the distinction between emotion and excitement in sexual behaviour, will in the end provoke impatience. Or, could not some adviser bring to his attention the results of a recent survey in the archdiocese of Milan, Italy's

biggest and richest, which listed politics and contraception as the top subjects causing annoyance to the faithful.

"The only person who could tell him" a fast-tongued cardinal was heard to remark - "is Cardinal Casaroli, the Secretary of State. Unfortunately he added, 'Casaroli would never tell him and, if he did, the Pope would not listen to him'."

The Pope reacts in different ways to prelates who raise unpopular issues in his presence. A North American archbishop made him very angry by telling him what he was doing to help men who had left the priesthood to marry. The scene was said to be tense enough even for the Pope to understand that his anger might have been excessive, because the next time he saw the archbishop he was more conciliatory.

This is in fact one of the Pope's favourite tactics. He is impulsive and is capable of dealing a sharp blow and then, if this is seen to be too much, of retreating a little.



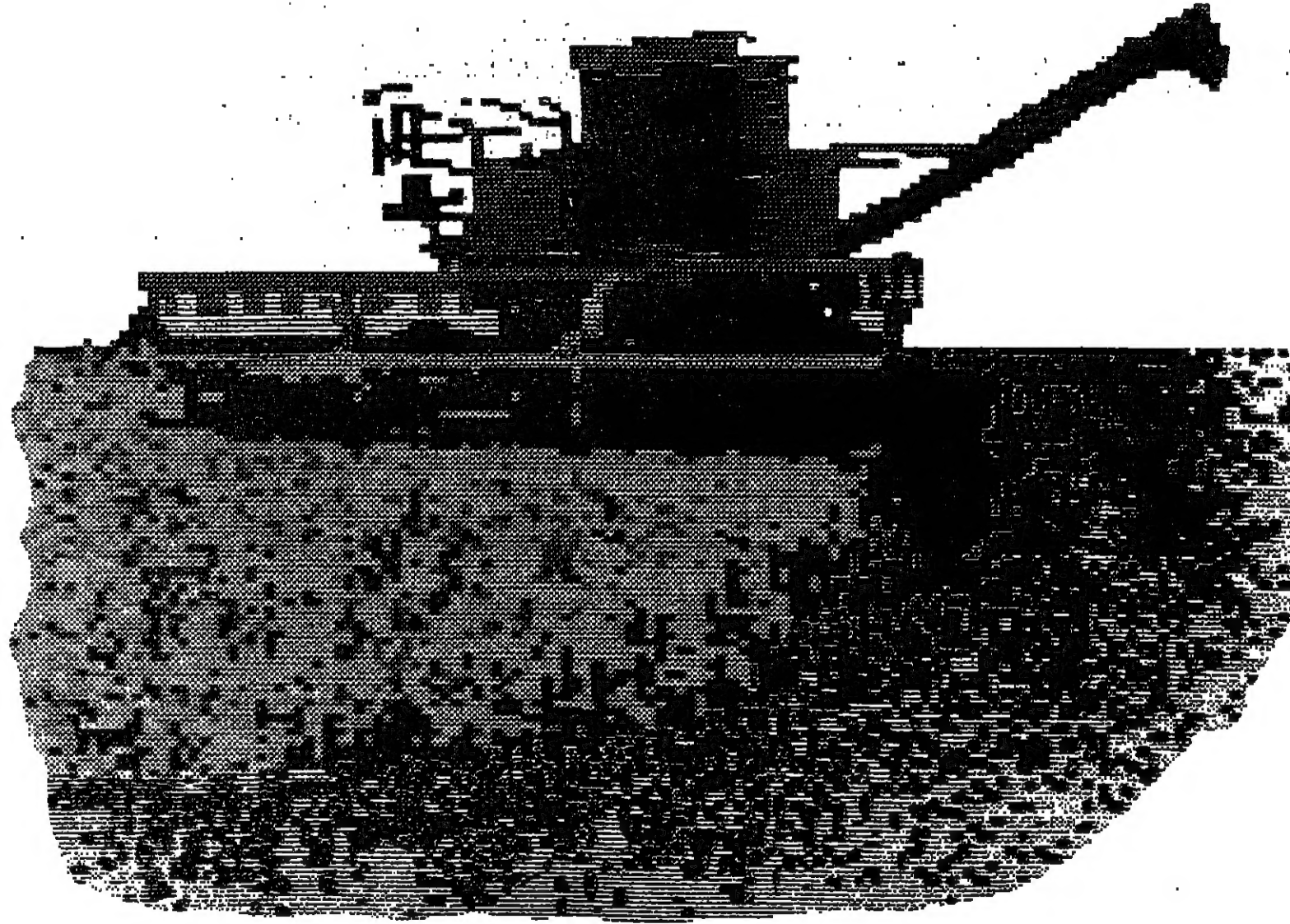
Cardinal Casaroli: Central figure at Vatican.

His behaviour makes an odd comparison with that of Paul VI, his predecessor but one (the one was John Paul I who was Pope for only 33 days), who is now constantly lauded as the antithesis of the present Pope. Paul VI had a rather fragile air and a character which oscillated between optimism and extreme pessimism. Yet in the field of policy, and in his tactics, he was firm and consistent.

One way in which John Paul II's critics express themselves is by praising a personality totally unlike the present Pontiff, and so attempting to show his shortcomings without actually mentioning him.

Tom orow: Tridentine Mass

British farmers trust Shell oils



Shell Oils
Technology you can trust

Shell Lubricants UK have developed a range of over 700 different lubricants, many of them helped Britain's agricultural industry to another record harvest. Engine oils for tractors and combine harvesters; oils for milking machines and chain saws; corrosion preventatives to protect valuable machinery during winter storage. Shell Oils give unsurpassed protection for all agricultural machinery.

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European notebook

On the sidelines of the people's union



Largely unnoticed in Britain so far, a revised fashion has been sweeping those foreign countries in the EEC on the other side of the English Channel. It has been growing like a snowball and has now reached a size where it is difficult to imagine it will ever melt away.

The fashion is known in EEC jargon as "European Union", an unfortunate choice for British sensibilities, because this is so at variance with national prejudice that only fringe idealists and politicians talk about it seriously.

Therein lies a real danger for Britain, because it is causing too little serious thought to be given to a subject which, like it or not, is gaining increasing credence inside the Community. Rather than find out what is meant by this union, there is too much of a tendency among senior politicians and opinion-formers to dismiss the whole idea as impracticable.

In turn, this means that Britain is risking being left behind, if the idea really starts to surge ahead, and once more finding itself forlornly outside the mainstream of the community it tried so hard to join.

The European Parliament, with the support of some British Conservatives, has voted through a treaty of European union drawn up by the Italian Communist elder statesman, Signor Altiero Spinelli. President Mitterrand made a speech in which he welcomed the idea. Under his presidency, the European summit in Fontainebleau agreed to set up two committees - one to look into institutional reform, and the other to devise ways of creating "a people's Europe".

Outside the Community, under French pressure, efforts are being made to turn the moribund Western European Union into an effective eastern pillar of the North Atlantic alliance.

Where in all this does Britain stand? The answer must frankly be that it is at best on the margins. It is joining in with no obvious sign of enthusiasm and giving the impression that it takes its seat at relevant meetings only to make sure the others do not do anything naughty while its back is turned.

And however nebulous the ideas may sound to British ears, they are beginning to take a definite shape. Both the committees set up by President Mitterrand are due to make an interim report to the Dublin summit at the start of next month, and they are likely to form an important feature of the Italian presidency programme at the start of next year.

Britain's contribution in the committees has been workmanlike and down to earth, but insufficient to dispel the view that it is dragging its feet. Similarly, in the WEU it has failed so far to take advantage of the situation to involve France militarily in its forward defence.

Mrs Thatcher personally presided in drawing up a British text to show her vision of the Europe of the future, but it was more remarkable for the fact that she produced it than for what it said. It was a vision of Europe without frontiers, where people, goods and services travelled unhindered around the Community. It had ideas about majority voting, research and industry. But it was largely a recital of previous British positions and left the Community as a whole unmoved.

In fact, Mrs Thatcher's vision of European union is very similar in many respects to that of Signor Spinelli. The difference is more in the vocabulary than in the aims. What is needed is the vision to grasp the present opportunity for taking a lead in the process of change which is going on, so that Britain can assume a position at the front of Community affairs.

Ian Murray

Strike halts Le Monde

Paris (AFP) - *Le Monde*, France's most respected newspaper, failed to appear yesterday because of a strike by non-editorial staff.

The evening newspaper, facing the worst financial crisis in its 39-year existence, was affected by action called in the wire room, the telephone switchboard, the internal message service, the dispatching room and by outside messengers.

The strike comes in the wake of a plan to cut salaries of journalists and non-editorial staff by 14 per cent.

Earlier this month, shareholders issued an ultimatum to force the editor and management to accept an outside financial director by December. The management has said that mounting losses may force it to sell assets or conduct a radical reorganization.

SPECTRUM

A series of brutal killings, the latest that of a boy aged four, has shocked the French. Diana Geddes reports from Paris

Murders most foul in deepest France

Behind the sophisticated surface of modern France with its high-speed trains, *haute couture*, and high-tech industries, lurks a dark and brutish past worthy of a Balzac novel, and every now and then a story comes to light, which reminds us of its existence.

The latest, which has held the nation in suspense for the past month and a half, concerns an outwardly normal middle-class family, whose four-year-old son was found murdered in October. But as the mystery surrounding the motives for the murder has deepened, so the backdrop to the drama of bitter family feuds, blackmail, and suicide has unfolded.

In the sleepy green valley of the Vologne River in the Vosges some 20 miles from Epinal in eastern France, lives the Jacob-Villemin family - cousins, uncles, grandparents, brothers-in-law, more than 100 of them, all within a 10-mile radius of one another. Every one of them was to come under suspicion for the murder of the child now known to the French public as "le petit Gregory".

Back in the 1930s Gregory's great-grandfather, Gaston Villemin, had married a certain Jeanne, by whom he had four children, including Albert, Gregory's grandfather. Jeanne had a reputation for sleeping around like a whore, and after the war had had her head shaven for allegedly having made love with German soldiers.

She had earlier spent three years in prison after being found guilty of battering to death her youngest child, aged eight. Cleared of any complicity in the murder, Gaston went off to fight in the war. But he returned in 1945 a broken man, and hanged himself in the barn behind his house.

Young Albert, Gaston's son, was sent off to live with an aunt in the Vologne Valley. It was there that he met Monique Jacob, one of 18 children at the next-door farm. Monique was already pregnant by another man, and soon after her marriage to Albert, she gave birth to a son, Jacky, known as "The Bastard", who was to become the number one suspect in the murder of little Gregory, his half-brother's only son. Monique and Albert went on to produce five children of their own, including Jean-Marie, father of the murdered child.

The scene shifts to the new house which Jean-Marie, now aged 26, and his wife, Christine, aged 25, have built on the outskirts of the village of Lépages. Jean-Marie is the foreman in a nearby car furnishings factory, where he is known as "The Chief". Christine works in a local textile factory. They are comfortably off, and the joy of their life is their four-year-old son, Gregory, a bright, sparkling child.

It is Tuesday October 16, this year. Christine has just picked up Gregory from the child-minder who looks after him after nursery school until his mother finishes work. Christine is busy in the kitchen, listening to the radio. The news flash has just finished: it is three minutes past five. She glances out of the window and sees Gregory in his blue anorak and hood playing happily in the sandpit with his orange spade. It was the last time she saw him alive.

At 5.26pm, Jean-Marie's eldest brother Michel receives an anonymous telephone call: "I have my revenge. I have taken the son of The Chief. I have put him into the Vologne."

A few minutes later, a woman in the village of Docelles, some three miles downstream from little Gregory's home, saw what she thought was a blue plastic dustbin sack floating in the river. The child's body was finally fished out of the water at 9.30 that evening. His hands and feet had been tied. The post-mortem later showed that he had been thrown into the river alive. There were no signs of fear or violence. He must have known his murderer well.

The next day, the child's parents received an anonymous letter, posted in their own village just before the murder took place. "Look where you are now with all your dough", read the letter written in capital letters with the left hand. "Your son is dead and I have my revenge."

Jacky, Jean-Marie's shy half-brother, aged 30, who had recently been totally rejected from the Villemin circle after a series of family rows, was immediately suspected.

It had long been thought that he was the man, known as "The Crow", who had plagued the Villemin family, and Jean-Marie and Christine in particular, for two years with anonymous threats, sometimes telephoned, sometimes written with the left hand.

"Go into the barn: your father has hung himself", one message read. "Your house will be set on fire", said another. A coffin was delivered during a family meeting. Shots were fired against one of the Villemin homes. Sometimes there was no explicit threat, just an indication of how close The Crow was to the family.

Then suddenly, in May last year, the calls stopped and the family breathed a sigh of relief. ... until last month. When he first heard of his son's death a distraught Jean-Marie went round to Jacky's house with a gun threatening to kill him, so sure he was that Jacky was responsible. But Jacky had a watertight alibi, having been seen by no less than 12 independent witnesses at the time of the murder, repairing a neighbour's roof.

Tensions in the valley heightened as police warned the family on the day of the funeral that The Crow would almost certainly be among the mourners.

A few days later a new bombshell fell. Studies by graphologists who had been comparing The Crow's writing with that submitted by 130 members of the Villemin clan, pointed the finger of guilt at Jean-Marie's cousin, Bernard Laroche, best friend of Jean-Marie's elder brother Michel, who first got the call announcing Gregory's death.



THE VICTIM Four-year-old Gregory Jacob - Villemin was thrown in the river last month.

Everyone was stunned. Bernard was the same age as Jean-Marie, had a similar job working as a foreman in a local textile factory, like him, had a new house and was comfortably off, and also like him had a shaggy-haired, only his son was mentally handicapped.

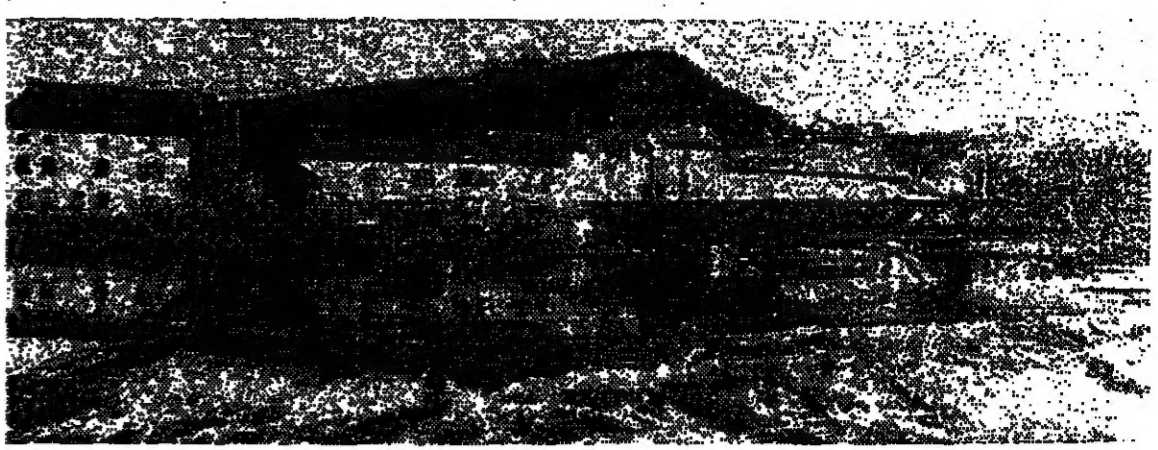
Bernard lived in the village of Aumontzey, further up the valley. He was a "bull" man, with a serious, almost morose expression, was known by everyone in the village and at work as a kind, gentle person, friendly with everyone, though rather reserved. Often going off for long walks in the forest by himself.

He was not a violent man, but he was not a pacifist either. He had a strong sense of justice and was not afraid to stand up for his beliefs. He was a man of few words, but when he spoke, everyone listened.

He was a man of few words, but when he spoke, everyone listened. He was a man of few words, but when he spoke, everyone listened. He was a man of few words, but when he spoke, everyone listened.

Bernard could provide an alibi. Furthermore, his 16-year-old sister, Muriel, had been with him at the time of the murder. Bernard came to the police station and said: "I was with my brother at the time of the murder. I can provide an alibi."

Four days later Muriel changed her story. She told the police that she had not been with her brother at the time of the murder. She had been at a friend's house.



THE SCENE The river Vologne at the village of Lépages, where the killer threw Gregory in alive. He was discovered floating three miles further on with his hands and feet tied.



THE FUNERAL Gregory's distraught mother and father.



THE ACCUSED Bernard Laroche, cousin of the father.

television at her Aunt Louisette's house. Bernard was already there with his little son, together with his aunt and her daughter, Chantal.

"My brother-in-law is innocent," Muriel insisted.

Muriel has remained silent since then. Her mother says she has tried twice to throw herself under a train because of the strain. "The gendarmes made her say all kinds of rubbish," one of Bernard's brothers-in-law said. They accused her of having slept with Bernard. Well, we

now know that is completely untrue. I myself took her to a gynaecologist to get her examined. She is a virgin."

Despite Muriel's retraction Bernard was arrested and is now in prison awaiting the outcome of the continuing police investigation. The police are still looking for a possible woman accomplice.

Gregory's mother was even called in for further questioning by the examining magistrate last week after four of her workmates claimed they had seen her posting a letter at the

time the letter announcing Gregory's death was sent from the same post box. She denies the claim.

The motive for the murder remains obscure, however. What could have provoked so bitter a need for revenge? Little extra pieces of explanation keep coming to light. Bernard, whose mother, the sister of Jean-Marie's mother, died in giving birth to him, lost his father in November 1981. It was then that The Crow first made his appearance and Bernard's father had long been prey to a blackmailer, and it was hinted at the time that a member of the Villemin family was responsible. What the blackmail concerned, no one is saying.

Although married, Bernard has a reputation for not having much success with women. Christine, Gregory's mother, told police of an incident before her marriage when Bernard made a pass at her at a family party, but had been rebuffed. It appears that Bernard had also made amorous advances to Jacky's wife, but again without success.

But does all this really add up to enough to murder an innocent, trusting child, in cold blood? The local inhabitants of the valley hint at some dark and terrible secret known only to the Villemin family. Perhaps more will be revealed when the case finally comes up for trial.

Father who killed seven children

Earlier this month, a peasant from near Brive in The Corrèze was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment after being found guilty of systematically murdering at birth seven of his nine children, like kittens. He clearly felt no compunction. For him, it was just a convenient form of birth control.

Jean-Pierre Leymarie married his wife, Rolande, in 1968, when she was 16 and he 28. Living in a dilapidated house with no running water, they eked out an existence on a small plot of land with six cows, a few chickens and some rabbits. Between 1970 and 1983,

they produced 12 children at a regular rate of one a year.

The first two children were allowed to grow up normally and, by all reports, were well cared for. Three died natural deaths. The seven others were suffocated by their father after he himself had delivered them into the world. The mother, it appears, passively acquiesced.

After cutting the umbilical cord, the father would bury the still warm bodies at the back of the house. Psychiatric reports indicated that Leymarie, was a stand trial.

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Four days later Muriel changed her story. She told the police that she had not been with her brother at the time of the murder. She had been at a friend's house.

Recluse lived with a corpse

Another story with a brutish peasant flavour came to light in the Aveyron last year after Carmélite mus, succeeded in getting an eviction order for one of their houses which had been occupied for years with the rent unpaid by a woman recluse and her two brothers.

The police had to use gas-masks when they forced their way into the house, so overpowering was the stench from the filth and the rotting corpse of one of the brothers who had died three years earlier. The woman, Esther Aubouy, aged 61, had not been seen

outside the house for 38 years.

At the end of the war, she had been denounced by neighbours for collaborating with the Nazis and had had her head shaven in the public square. Overcome with shame, her parents locked her in her room only occasionally allowing her out at night on a leash.

When her parents died 20 years later, she could not bear to face the world.

The gas and the water had long since been cut off. She and her surviving brother, with whom she slept in the same bed, were taken off to a psychiatric hospital.

How to get a peace of the action

moreover... Miles Kingston

example. Recently we were called in to settle a dispute between two companies. One was a manufacturer of electronic equipment, the other a distributor. They had a disagreement over the terms of a contract. We went to the factory and the distributor's office. We talked to the people involved. We found out what the real issues were. We then went back to the office and we wrote a settlement. It was a peace of the action.

ists like you that are ruining this country!"

After that, we made up two teams, each composed half of workers and half of management, and told them to draw up a plan for the next 10 years of the company which would be better than the plan drawn up by the other side, with the proviso that the team producing the worse plan would be made redundant.

After that, but, we probably getting the idea by now. We shall also shortly be opening a branch in Geneva, where we have been asked to mastermind next year's Soviet-American arms talks. Join up now, while we still have room.

That's because the technique of Mediation works. The way of the middle is not soft and comfy. It has all the hardness of both opposites. Also, it's tax-deductible.

So, if you have a problem, whether you are an individual, a company, a union, or a government, come to us. We will help you to find a solution. We will help you to find a peace of the action.

We shall also shortly be opening a branch in Geneva, where we have been asked to mastermind next year's Soviet-American arms talks. Join up now, while we still have room.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 506)

ACROSS

- 1 Obstructed (6)
- 2 Risk (4)
- 3 Priest's apron (5)
- 4 Release (7)
- 5 Haphazardly (8)
- 6 Principal (4)
- 7 Casually (13)
- 8 Crippled (4)
- 9 Wealth source (8)
- 10 Woodland deity (7)
- 11 Search body (5)
- 12 Dreamy (4)
- 13 Decaying (6)

DOWN

- 1 Palled (5)
- 2 Stick (3)
- 3 Betrayer (6,7)
- 4 Simpleton (4)
- 5 Flat Indian bread (7)
- 6 Capital (10)
- 7 Dubious behaviour (5,6)
- 8 Burden (4)
- 9 Metal armband (4)
- 10 Country walker (7)
- 11 Ingenious (5)
- 12 Rounded handle (4)
- 13 Plump (3)

SOLUTION TO No 505

ACROSS: 1 Timid 4 Calvary 8 Wings 9 Arbitrator 10 Chairman 11 Undo 13 Piscatorial 17 Rove 18 Armature 21 All-time 22 Onset 23 Dodgins 24 Tatty

DOWN: 1 Thwack 2 Mania 3 Distract 4 Characterless 5 Lobe 6 Acania 7 Yarrow 12 Break out 14 Invalid 15 Errand 16 Deftly 19 Upset 20 Wife

行酒莊 散元

"Bet they won't get off!"

Soon the lions of Singapore will have plenty to roar about. Starting January 16th 1985, Air Canada is flying to Bombay and Singapore. Flights leave London Heathrow at the civilised hour of 11.45. Every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The only direct morning flights.

Book now and an Apex return fare to Singapore could cost as little as \$604. Not much to pay for the good old Canadian hospitality that makes flights so good you won't want to get off!

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AIR CANADA Intercontinental Singapore '85

Napoleon employed the greatest chef of all time to create his meals.

Only one cognac could follow that.

Two Frenchmen, born during the eighteenth century, were destined to alter the course of history.

The first was, of course, Napoleon.

The second is not quite so well known, unless you happen to be a top chef.

His name was Antonin Carême.

No other chef has had a greater influence on the way we eat, than Carême.

Courvoisier is the only cognac to be honoured with The Diploma Prestige de la France, the French award for excellence.

Many dishes have been named after, or invented by him, with the words *a la Carême* in the recipe.

Carême was, at different times, employed by the nobility of the day, including The Czar of Russia, The Prince Regent and Napoleon Bonaparte.

At the same time, a third notable Frenchman had a special link with Napoleon, Emmanuel Courvoisier.

M. Courvoisier's cognac was considered the best obtainable and known to have been the favourite of the Emperor.

The same strict rules about the way Cognac Courvoisier is made still apply.

The grapes come only from the Charente area of South West

France, where weather and soil conditions are ideal.

The resulting cognac is then matured in oak casks.

To comply with French law, there is a minimum ageing period.

As a guarantee of ageing quality, most cognacs bear three stars, or the initials VSOP if it is more mature. Stars or initials are no guarantee of quality on ordinary brandies.

To comply with Courvoisier's higher standards, however, the period is longer.

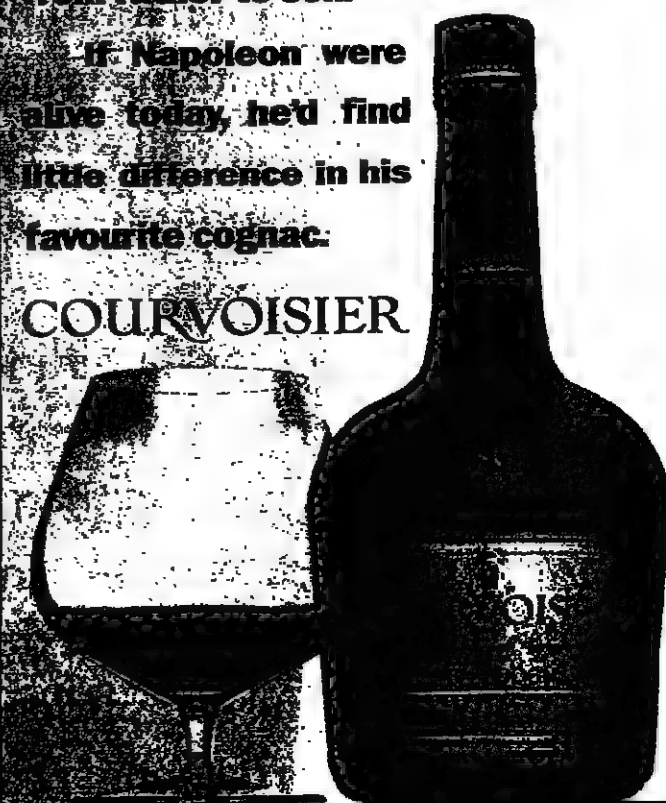
After this ageing period, it's the turn of the Master-blender.

Before he can even begin to marry the colour, bouquet and flavour of different vintages, the Masterblender has to serve an apprenticeship of at least ten years.

As is often the case at Château Courvoisier, the art is handed down from father to son.

If Napoleon were alive today, he'd find little difference in his favourite cognac:

COURVOISIER



A typical "Piece montée" with a picture of its creator, Antonin Carême (1784-1833).

Le Cognac de Napoleon

The Born Leader

SKI FASHION I by Suzy Menkes

Space age style for high living

Ski wear has gone back to its roots - to the cold, proud mountains and their snowy landscapes. Survival is the theme of the generous shapes and the space age fabrics which combine to make modern ski wear. The result is high altitude fashion that makes sense in a winter climate.

In another sense, ski wear has drawn closer to the mountains for they are the current design inspiration. Blocks of hard colour fall like shadows on a snowfield across the clean-cut one-piece suits. The background fabrics are in icy glacier blue or the bluish pink of sun-tipped peaks. White is a racing first, with suits and jackets marked out with flag-bright scarlet, yellow or orange, or sudden blocks of black.

The print is new, tracking across the simple shapes, mostly in abstract designs on a plain ground. Geometric angles and graphic shapes, stripes, splashes or sunbursts of colour, give a hard edge to the soft shapes.

There are camouflage prints that recall an earlier era of army skiers striking out across frozen wastes. The pioneer parka, in combat green, complete with Davey Crockett fur tails brings a whiff of the North American frontier to the bold skiwear at Harrods Olympic Way.

Running on parallel skis through this ethnic mountain feeling are street-wise shapes. Lillywhites have the big one-piece suits that have been taken up by both sexes. The fashion statement in their Allsport's range of clothes is the *macho* shoulder-line, rounded and padded, sometimes even winged like a space-age epaulette.

Space age technology has now transformed ski wear as surely as the earliest stretch fabrics revolutionized mountain fashion. Lillywhites, who claim the biggest ski department in Europe and have full time professional advisers, also have a range of ski-wear in Tactel, ICI's new polyamide fibre developed for sport and leisure wear. A range of wadded fillings, originally developed for duvets and pillows, is produced by Du Pont. Their new generation of thermal insulation for skiwear includes Quallofil (the luxurious and most pliable) and Hollofil. Both are designed to face sub-zero temperatures and Arctic winds and are used this season especially by the cold comfort Scandinavian countries - Luita of Finland and Tenson and Mover of Sweden.

All the big ski names, especially Head, Bogner and the French designers are using the ultra-light fabrics first developed for space missions and now given a competitive edge of style.

The ski suits are versatile, with sleeves that unzip or gilets to add colour, detail and warmth. Simpson, Piccadilly, have some striking designs with panels of graphic pattern lying like a knapsack on the back. The gilet remains a popular ski fashion because it leads such a varied life - worn over a sweater for *ski de fond* or spring skiing, and worn under a big parka when the wind blows hard.

Newer are the big proofed tops - cut like a sweater from anorak-type materials, and a stylish warm-up for old salopettes as well as a good shape over slim ski pants.

Most trousers are still relatively wide, for although fashion has revived the stirrup stretch pants, you are more likely to see them on the dance floor than on the piste. The wide shoulder line gives the ski suits the silhouette of an inverted triangle in which the legs have the illusion of slimmness without the tight racing pants.

Ski wear has been androgynous ever since the ladies of St Moritz dropped their skirts along with the idea that a woman's place was on ice skates. The current feeling for a male-female overlap in clothing applies to ski wear, and most departments sell the clothes jointly. As well as those stores already mentioned, Selfridges and C & A sell ski

wear for both sexes. Dickins & Jones for women.

I do not believe in skimping on skiwear by buying sporty fashions from regular ranges. Jacket shoulders need a generous stretch, zips should be solidly stitched and it pays to respect the mountains by taking no chances on practicality and warmth. The leading brand-name suits, which tend to have the design innovations, sell from £200 upwards, but prices start at less than half that figure. An average outfit from Pindisports or Alpine Sports (both with full colour mail order brochures) would sell at £150.

Ski accessories have come a long way since the days of black mitts, yellow goggles and a tartan bumbag. Just as Tecnica's moon boots revolutionized footwear, so the latest goggles look like science fiction fantasy. Their geometric shapes, drawn with a set-square as well as a compass, echo the fashion feeling.

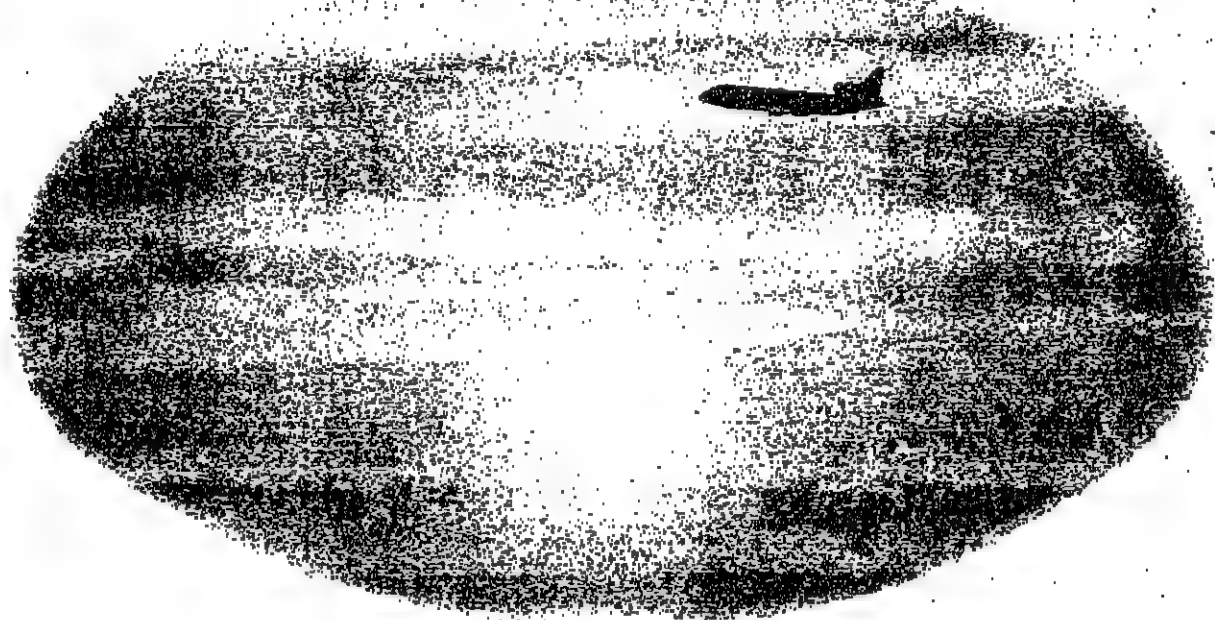
Quilted nylon boxer boots on thick crepe soles are a high fashion buy that will keep you dry on snowy streets (but are not intended for climbing or heavy duty wear). When it comes to boots, for skiing or after, you can have any colour as long as it is not black. Pale icy colours - pink, sky blue and especially white - add to the space age feeling.



Powder blue and white quilted cotton/nylon ski suit £69.99, assorted colours, sizes 10-16, from Sportsworld at C & A major stores. White cotton ski sweater £14.95, Sun and Snow, 229 Brompton Road, SW3. Ski goggles £28 by Porsche Design from Harvey Nichols, Harrods, For Eyes branches. Leather belt £16.50, Lillywhites. Below: Black on white printed suit £289 by Head; cotton rollneck £14.95; both from Sun and Snow, 229 Brompton Road, SW3 and Olympic Way Harrods, Knightsbridge. Ciro boots £24.95, Sacha.



DAWN OF A GOLDEN AGE



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SKI FASHION II



Geometric ski sweater in white, yellow gold and silver grey nylon £65, also in royal, mustard and white. Matching gold racing pants £85, also available in red, navy, sky blue, white. Both by Skin, exclusive to DuSport, The Porticos, 388 King's Road, World's End, London SW3. Red/White leather gloves £22, DuSport. Brochure available. Padded yellow, red and blue cap by Henri Duvillard £25. Redskin boots £75; both from SJS on 2 department at Simpson, Piccadilly SW1. Hair by Sally at Simon Rattan, 54 Crawford Street, W1. Make-up by Debbie Bunn using Max's Holiday on Ice collection: lead Blue Lustre Colouring Pencil for eyes, Ice on Ice white Soft Lustre Lipstick and lead Lights electric blue roll-on hi-shine glitter. Fashion Assistant: Christine Parnell. Photographs by MIKE OWEN.



Rising sun outlined in red, grey and black on the back of a white ski suit by Bogner, £250; gloves £30; from Simpson, SJS on 2 department, Piccadilly, SW1. White goggles, detachable side arms change to elastic, £45 by Porsche Design from Harrods, Selfridges and Porsche Car Centres. SKI GOGGLES now come in a wide variety of shapes and degrees of protection: Ski-Look produces circular aviator styles with leather side guards in bright colours, from Boots. The first lens to absorb ultra-violet and infra red rays, developed by Nasa, is used by Bolle for their 'Irex 100' goggles, from Alpine Sports and Harrods.



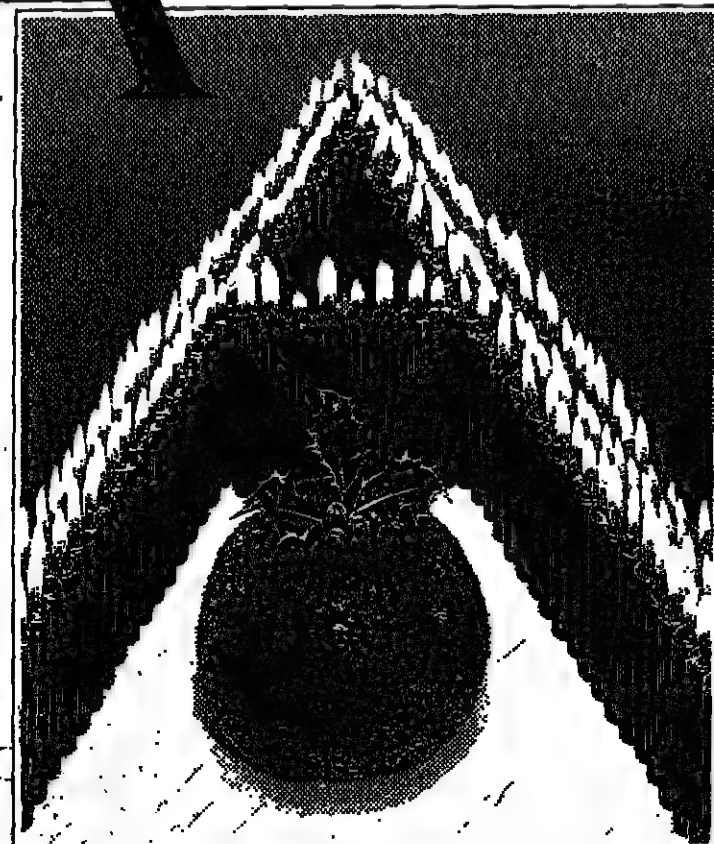
Abstract brush-strokes in poster paint brights run across the shoulders of a white glazed cotton gilet, turquoise lacing at the sides £99.95. Matching white ski suit £212.95; both by AllSport from Lillywhites, Piccadilly Circus, SW1. Ranges of basic skiwear are also carried in Lillywhites shops in Leeds, Alders of Croydon and Sutton. BROCHURES are produced each season by the following specialists: Alpine Sports, 215 Kensington High Street, W8. Sportsworld at C & A, Pindisports and Koniche catalogue from 173 Sloane Street, SW1; 14/18 Holborn, WC1; Croydon, Guildford and Bristol, Luhta brochure from Homes, Selfridges and Lillywhites. Snow and Rock, 118 Kensington High Street, W8.

Enjoy eating our words

In the second issue of *A la carte*.
Alternative Christmas Four people choose game, rose petal tart, smoked salmon sorbet.
Taillevent The three-star Paris restaurant: its secret pudding recipes, its hand-made cheeses. **Parsnips** The gourmet treatment from Jane Grigson. **Cheese with holes** Can you tell the difference between Emmental and Gruyère? **Chocolate** Why dark is in and milk is out. **Plus** delicate Korean cookery, almond crepes suzettes, the gungiest Christmas pudding.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Snow storms in

Arthur Scargill, who has attacked the anti-NUM bias of television news, will be astonished by one of the signatories to an advertisement in *The Guardian* today appealing for cash for striking miners' families. The name of ITN reporter Jon Snow will certainly amaze everyone else. Currently Washington correspondent of the statistically impartial news service, Snow's name joins such radical journalists as Mary Holland and Paul Foot. Above the appeal it reads: "The distress of the miners and their families has not daunted their fighting spirit. They are as determined as ever to save their communities, their jobs and our coal. They have a right to a good Christmas." When ITN newscaster Gordon Honeycombe publicly supported the firemen's strike in 1977 he was suspended within hours and decided not to return. This time around others in the media have been more careful. Melvyn Bragg, for example, withdrew his controversial signature after checking the terms of his contract with London Weekend Television. ITN said yesterday: "Jon Snow was acting as a private individual. It has nothing to do with ITN." So, for that matter, was Honeycombe, who said yesterday: "I am astonished. It seems rather reckless of Jon, if well meant."

Double vision?

Today a former Inland Revenue collector by the name of Arthur Scargill will travel from Shipley to Buckingham Palace to receive his MBE. In the miners' leader's home town there is no intention of being overshadowed. Labour councillors meet tonight to decide whether to bestow on their Arthur the Freedom of Barnsley.

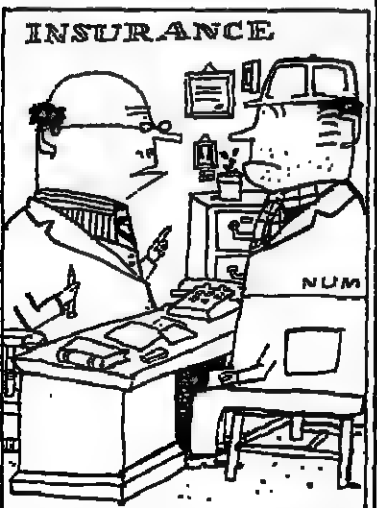
Musical chairs

When Paul McCartney is granted the freedom of Liverpool tomorrow, it will be a big day for Liverpudlians - if they are Labour councillors. While all 57 Labour councillors can attend the ceremony, only four seats have been reserved for Liberal and Tory representatives. Neither have the deprived opposition received any of the 100 free tickets given to the council for the evening's premiere of McCartney's film *Give My Regards to Broad Street*. Liberal leader Sir Trevor Jones is furious: it was his group who proposed honouring the former Beatle in the first place.

Hammered home

Britain's former ambassador to Washington, Sir Nicholas Henderson, who told Al Haig during the Falklands War that Britain wouldn't mind sinking half the Argentine navy - and could - is to interview Argentine's foreign minister Dante Caputo in Paris on Sunday. The interview - certain to be an explosive one - is for BBC's *Brass Tacks* programme on the future of the Falklands. In the programme, to be broadcast on December 12, he will also be interviewing Sir Anthony Kershaw, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, and Sir Anthony Parsons, Mrs Thatcher's special adviser on foreign affairs at the time of the Falklands. The BBC has certainly made an interesting choice in Sir "Nicko": "It's absolute nonsense, the whole Belgrano thing," he remarked recently. "Complete nonsense." It's now becoming a thing about whether the ministers shouldn't have been told by the chiefs-of-staff, and the military saying that they did. Whether in fact the ministers were informed which direction she was heading in, which is quite irrelevant. You might as well say, in the war, a German bomber that's flying back home shouldn't be shot at."

BARRY FANTONI



History lesson

President Chernenko did not receive the customary Wedgwood or fine crystal from Neil Kinnock yesterday. He was given instead archive copies of the socialist newspaper *Justice* protesting at Tsar Nicholas' 1909 visit to London, and a video of the history of refugees in Whitechapel. Neither gift was entirely appropriate. A cartoon in *Justice* shows a bomb at the Tsar's feet, but the Soviets deplore terrorism of any sort. And among the Whitechapel refugees was the now unmentionable Trotsky. Chernenko will probably never watch the video, however. Most members of the Soviet elite use VHS-PAL videos, and this one is Betamax.

PHS

'One nation' splits Tories in two

Philip Webster describes a backbench contest which reflects growing doubts about government economic policy

irrespective of whether they usually attend the committee meetings. Successful candidates often owe more to the superior organization of their supporters than anything else. But this year the elections to the key economic committees - employment, trade and industry and, particularly, finance - have been particularly keenly fought.

Clark has had since 1979 the role of representing the views of MPs on the economy to ministers and, to a lesser extent, the media. He is an unwavering supporter of the Government. His opponents regard him as an ultra-loyalist, one said yesterday that he had the Harry Lauter approach to politics; he felt the Government should keep right on regardless.

Forman, a present vice-chairman of the committee, is standing at the urging of a group of senior backbenchers who believe that Clark no longer represents the balance of opinion on the backbenches, particularly on unemployment.

Forman is on the left side run by

Sir William van Stranbanzee and his allies called the Lollards, named by Sir William, a churchman, after the religious dissenters.

They say that the argument has moved on. A new consensus has emerged within the parliamentary party, they argue, which accepts that a more pragmatic approach to unemployment is needed to stem the rising tide through the introduction of imaginative microeconomic measures. The appointment of Lord Young as the Cabinet's job-creator is cited as a sign that the Government has got the message.

The most popular text among Conservative MPs today is the *Jobs Ahead* pamphlet, written by Sir Philip Goodhart, the former minister, but put forward by the One Nation group of MPs. It argued that the Government could cut unemployment by 1½ million by introducing schemes that would not violate any of its economic policies.

Forman, a member of the One Nation group, argued in a weekend speech that a substantial fall in

unemployment must be achieved if Britain was to retain its "national cohesion".

Perhaps reflecting the new consensus, he argued for firm control of public spending and borrowing, monetary sector pay and a prudent monetary policy, before outlining a series of short-term measures to meet the existing crisis and a far more radical programme of long-term measures.

Clark's supporters deny the accusations of his detractors that he is "a lackey", someone who can be relied upon to tell ministers and the Prime Minister what they want to hear. But they do believe he is right in urging the Government to stick to its guns. They are against spending money on "false jobs". The left-wingers, they say, never say where the money is coming from.

Unlike the left they believe the emphasis should still be placed where Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, puts it, on cutting taxes to increase consumer demand; and it is the route to more jobs.

But Sir William's past successes have been hailed by the Prime Minister's supporters as proof that the parliamentary party is solid. The Prime Minister's critics therefore will be the likelier to claim that a Forman victory is proof that the tide has turned.

Continued unrest in the black townships reveals the fatal flaws in Botha's divide-and-rule strategy: Michael Hornsby reports



Canvassers and boycotters in the "Coloured" election this summer: prime minister Botha

New dawn or bleak horizon?

By this means, it is hoped that white power can be shored up by alliance, on white terms, with selected non-white groups with a shared interest in keeping the mass of poorer rural "outsiders" at bay. The intended non-white components of this inner core are the 2.7 million Coloureds and 870,000 Indians and, on terms still to be defined, a growing African middle class of businessmen and skilled workers.

Indians and Coloureds now have the franchise, albeit in a parliament ingeniously devised so that no combination of votes can threaten the control of the majority party in the white chamber. Despite the low polls and the apathy or antipathy of precisely the more affluent urban groups which the government must attract if its policy is to succeed, more of them may be drawn into the new system over time.

The whole exercise is meaningless, however, unless the support of at least a significant minority of Africans can be won. Some 12.2 million Africans live in one or other of 10 tribal "homelands" which Pretoria is attempting to turn into separate client states. About 4.6 million live in rural areas outside these homelands, and the policy of giving preference to Coloureds for jobs in the Western Cape. But the "pass laws" which seek to regulate the movement of Africans remain. There is no sign that the government is thinking of repealing or even relaxing them, even though they are constantly flouted and are a major source of racial friction.

It is this last group enlarged steadily by a rural exodus which is increasingly hard to stem - which is crucial to Botha's strategy, and it is here where that strategy has least to offer. The largely self-contained township violence poses no immediate

threat to white control, any more than the erratic guerrilla activity of the underground African National Congress. Stoning of buses, boycotts of schools and burning and looting of shops in the African ghettos harm blacks rather than whites. But Pretoria has no cure: after each remission, the fever of unrest recurs with sharpened virulence.

The government appears to have no intention of offering these Africans more than representation at the town council level. These local bodies, widely seen as the agents of government policy, enjoy almost no support. Some of their officials were murdered in the recent violence, and few dare show their faces in the troubled communities. Yet the government insists it will deal only with these discredited bodies, and refuses to discuss rents and other issues with the local communities which have sprung up spontaneously to voice popular grievances. Many of their leaders have been jailed.

The government has taken steps to encourage home ownership among Africans with legal permits to the townships, to open some white business districts to African entrepreneurs, and to end the policy of giving preference to Coloureds for jobs in the Western Cape. But the "pass laws" which seek to regulate the movement of Africans remain. There is no sign that the government is thinking of repealing or even relaxing them, even though they are constantly flouted and are a major source of racial friction.

The government is now publicly committed to educational equality for all races, albeit within a

segregated structure. That in itself is an important departure from the old principle of Bantu education which held, in the words of Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, that no African should be trained "above the level of certain forms of labour". But, with per capita spending on African schooling only a sixth of what is spent on white, equality will never be achieved in the near or even medium term future without a diversion of financial resources unacceptable to most whites.

The government is thus saddled with a strategy which is demonstrably not working, nor likely to. But at the same time there is no combination of forces, internal or external, strong enough to compel it to change course. It will therefore continue to lurch forward. The ban on racially mixed marriages could well go, as could much so-called "petty apartheid", from whites-only beaches to segregated trains, buses and cinemas.

'Pretoria has no cure: after each remission the fever of unrest recurs with sharpened violence'

The central problem of African political rights, however, will not be addressed. Discontent with the inferior quality of African education will continue to seethe and grow. The new breed of independent African trade unions - legalisation in 1979 without comparable political rights has perhaps been the government's most fateful error - will become steadily more militant. In the end - it may be 10 years or 20 - Pretoria will have to try and negotiate a political compromise with the African majority. The tragedy is that its present strategy is seen as a reason not to compromise, rather than the best basis on which to do just that.

reasonable that the Lord Chancellor should want outsiders looking at how we run the legal aid scheme."

Perhaps more significantly, the use of consultants represents a new attitude to decision-making: a departure from the old subjective methods and a step for the profession away from the old lawyer-centred world to one where they have to see themselves as part of a bigger commercial machine.

For the first time, the Lord Chancellor's Department has proposed that as part of a survey of civil court procedure, management consultants should be hired to examine the whole system and collect raw data about delays and costs. It is part of a trend throughout the civil service to use consultants, where departments have neither the staff nor the expertise to handle the problem. A fresh and objective way of looking at things and can bring certain knowledge to bear.

But it is also, as one official said, a complete break from the old idea of basing decisions on "a group of lawyers pooling their own experiences" to the applying of business management techniques to the legal system.

Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Roger Scruton

Nothing sacred in this crusade

Defoe observed that the streets of London contained many "stout fellows, who would fight to the death against Popery, without knowing whether it be a man or a horse". In our day, the synod of the Church of England is full of similar fellows, prepared to fight with equal gusto against monetarism. With compassionate zeal, they tell of the starving, the oppressed, the jobless and the homeless, and identify "monetarism" as the all-pervading cause.

Everywhere we see the effects of this Satanic power: declining industry, rising crime rates, social disintegration and abject poverty. Monetarism also forbids the provision of massive "foreign aid" to countries governed by socialist planning. Hence it is the true cause of the Ethiopian famine.

Having decided that man's problems are "social", rather than spiritual, the radical clergy can no longer blame the sinner for his sin. The hatred expended on the pocket line is not the doing of wicked individuals, but the blameless effect of an abstract cause.

It is almost blasphemous to suggest that the decline in religion might be more dangerous than unemployment, or that the lack of spiritual guidance is more likely to generate crime than the failure of the Government to embark on spend-thrift policies.

Spiritual guidance is precisely what the radical clergy cannot provide. Had it been otherwise, they would have drawn our attention seven or more years ago to the true calamity of Ethiopia, raising their voices in protest at the destruction of the world's oldest Christian society by atheist fanatics committed to a war against the soul of man.

But let us return to monetarism. The Bishop of Durham should be firmly told that this is neither a man nor a horse but a theory. Quite reasonable people have been known to subscribe to it, and to support the course of action which it recommends. Some of these people are Christians, aware of their responsibilities, and aware too that it is not by government policy that the soul is lost or saved.

The basis of monetarism is the Quantity Theory of Money, a long-established but disputed theory based on the acceptance of the Fisher equation. Suppose M is the stock of money, V the velocity at which it circulates through the economy, P the average price level of goods and services and Y a volume measure of those goods and services. MV is then the total money value of goods bought, and PY the money value of goods sold. Since these values must be the same, $MV=PY$.

The theory receives its empirical application by assuming that Y is constant (or growing at a given rate), that the economy is at full

employment (in the economist's sense), and will remain there, and that V is a constant.

All those assumptions are dubious. Milton Friedman has argued, however, that the monetarist theory, suitably qualified, is applicable to modern market economies. Hence, the rise and fall of the price level (P) will be determined by the rise and fall of the money supply (M). By controlling the money supply, therefore, we control also the rate of inflation.

The theory may be false; perhaps the Bishop of Durham has been granted a revelation that tells him so. Nevertheless, a politician who sincerely believed it to be true may feel that he has a Christian obligation to act on it.

A government which issues currency gives an assurance of its value, and cannot - without breach of trust - willingly devalue it. If the Quantity Theory is true, a government which increases the money supply does exactly what it appears to be doing: it devalues the currency. Hence it violates the Christian obligation to honour promises.

Moreover, it plays a devious trick on its citizens. It encourages them to sell their principal asset (their labour) for a wage, and then reduces the value of this wage, thus imposing a secret tax on labour. The canon law which forbids usury ought surely to apply to this pernicious form of it, in which no capital asset is offered in exchange for an unjust percentage.

A government has a greater obligation to cure inflation than to provide employment. For inflation is the government's doing; it is the government which issues the promissory notes that induce our dependence, and which chooses to multiply them in breach of trust.

Unemployment is not the government's doing, even if it is the occasional consequence of its policy. If I starve my invalid wife, her death is my doing; but when a starving Ethiopian dies as a result of my inaction, his death is not my doing, even if I am in some measure to blame for it.

Traditional Christianity devoted enormous intellectual labour to the study of such distinctions, knowing that we must understand them if we are to live responsibly. The new class of bishop seems happy to ignore them, for its morality is utilitarian, calculating and secular. However, a churchman whose morality is based, not on the apprehension of sacred things, but on the calculation of consequences, loses every claim to spiritual authority, and his moral pronouncements are no more to be taken seriously than are those of the politicians against whom he inveighs.

The author is editor of the *Salisbury Review*.

Peter Kellner

Home truths from abroad

I am not sure if I am meant to pass this on - the Official Secrets Act being what it is, you are probably risking prosecution yourself if you read any further - but next week Nato defence ministers will meet in Brussels to ratify the biggest change in Nato strategy since the 1960s.

If everything goes to plan, Michael Heseltine will return from the meeting to confirm Britain's participation in "Follow On Force Attack", or FOFA. This is a strategy linked to the United States Airland Battle Plan, for responding to a Russian conventional attack in central Europe by striking deep into Warsaw Pact territory, using nuclear weapons if necessary.

FOFA and Airland Battle Plan involve a substantially faster military escalation by Nato than envisaged in its original "flexible response" strategy, devised two decades ago. There may be perfectly good arguments for the change, although I cannot think of any. But if Mr Heseltine, who is no slouch as a Commons debater, is so keen on the idea, why has he not told Parliament what he is up to?

FOFA has been discussed extensively within Nato for the past three years. Yet when MPs at Westminster have tried to discover what is going on, they have been stonewalled. In reply to a question from the Liberal MP Paddy Ashdown in April John Stanley, Heseltine's number two, said merely that FOFA "is not at present agreed Nato doctrine".

Four weeks ago the Labour MP Ann Clwyd asked (a) what view the Nato Military Committee of chiefs of staff had taken on FOFA, and (b) whether FOFA would be discussed at next week's meeting of defence ministers. Stanley refused to say both matters, he replied in written answers, were "confidential".

So if I am arrested for telling you what next week's Nato meeting will discuss, you will understand why, I do, however, have one trick up my sleeve. I could disclose my source: General Bernard Rogers, the commander of Nato forces in Europe.

Three days before Stanley sent his answers to Mrs Clwyd, Rogers told the *International Herald Tribune* that FOFA had already been approved by the 14 allied chiefs of staff on Nato's Military Committee and would be discussed at next week's meeting of ministers.

If this were an isolated example of the Americans divulging information that the British Government considers too delicate to make public, one might dismiss it as a minor hiccup in the western alliance's public relations. But it is far from being an isolated event.

Last week, for example, General Rogers released another piece of

information that Mr Heseltine and his ministers had refused to give to Parliament: that a second flight of cruise missiles had been deployed at Greenham Common, bringing the total number there to 32.

American statements on nuclear policy contradict ours in other ways. Last March the Labour MP Clive Soley asked whether Mr Heseltine had "given his agreement in principle to use of ground launched cruise missiles as part of the USA Airland Battle Plan". Stanley replied: "No. And no such agreement has been sought." Yet in a number of freely available US Army publications outlining Airland Battle Plan, cruise missiles are listed as an integral part of its strategy.

It might be thought that, even in our secretive political culture, ministers would be a little bit keener than they are to embrace publicly the military strategy of our principle allies. The trouble is that if they did, their protestations that Nato is a purely defensive alliance would wear thin.

According to last year's Statement on the Defence Estimates, "the allies need no convincing that in a nuclear war there would be no winners". That suits oddly with the US army's description of Airland Battle Plan when it was launched in March 1981: "What we seek is the capacity for early initiative of offensive action by air and land forces to bring about the conclusion of the battle on our terms... The purpose of military operations cannot be simply to avert defeat but rather it must be to win."

So it goes on. Time after time, the fullest, frankest and most frightening picture of western military policy is provided in documents published in Washington - not least as a result of the detailed questioning by congressional committees of everything from weapons procurement to nuclear strategy.

Perhaps everything coming out of open political debate in Washington is to be discounted in favour of the bland assurances issued by John Stanley. Perhaps Michael Heseltine has no intention of agreeing to the nuclear features of FOFA without consulting Parliament first, perhaps we have told the Americans that cruise missiles must never be used as part of Airland Battle Plan: perhaps Mrs Thatcher has made it clear to President Reagan that Britain will have nothing to do with any strategy that purports to offer victory in a war with the Russians.

Or perhaps Thatcher, Heseltine and Stanley are treating Parliament and the public with contempt; and, worse, getting away with it.

The author is political editor of the *New Statesman*.

Legal eagles look to their image

Lawyers, by tradition the professional problem-solvers, are now turning to outside professionals to solve their own. From the Lord Chancellor's Department down, through the Bar and Law Society to pressure groups such as the Legal Aid Practitioners, the profession is hiring public relations and other specialist consultants and laying itself open to their scrutiny.

The Law Society recently appointed management consultants Coopers and Lybrand to review its organization and functions: the first time, it is thought, that a profession has subjected itself to an outside body in such a way. The review comes after a disastrous year for the society, the loss of solicitors' house conveying monopoly and widespread criticism of its complaints procedures. Radical proposals for change are expected.

The Lord Chancellor's Department has just announced the results of a survey of the administration of the legal aid scheme, also conducted by Coopers and Lybrand, and both branches of the profession are using outside specialists to strengthen their bargaining positions in legal aid pay talks with government officials. The Law Society has engaged Pent. Marwick, Mitchell to find out what lawyers are earning

from legal aid; the Bar is employing Coopers and Lybrand for a survey of the overheads and expenses of 24 sets of criminal chambers.

It is the sign of a new relationship between lawyers and the commercial world of consultancy. Robin Calder Smith, a barrister who went into PR and now heads the professional services division of Hill and Knowlton, says: "Lawyers can solve other people's problems but, like the cobbler's children, remain unshod themselves. They are rarely trained to manage or to communicate - beyond their work to clients - and they are coming to see there are good grounds for accepting external help."

The legal profession is not alone. The professions generally with their "skills and mystiques which need demystifying", are a growing and significant section of Hill and Knowlton's clientele and now warrant their own department.

The reasons are many. Undoubtedly the climate of opinion about the professions is one. The Government's proposals to end the conveying monopoly has made lawyers acutely aware of the need to market themselves and become more competitive. The boom in new technology, coupled with a harsher economy, has brought a need for

cost-effectiveness and knowledge of the latest computer developments. Public expectations have also changed: clients are now prepared to shop around, to challenge legal bills and demand explanations of how their affairs are being handled in language they can comprehend.

In line with these changes solicitors are now allowed to advertise. This has brought increasing use of advertising agencies and PR firms both by individual solicitors' firms and consortia, and pressure groups with a message to get across.

Quintin Barry, chairman of the Legal Aid Practitioners' Group, has hired Chandler public relations in Brighton "simply because we don't have the time or expertise to put over our case." In the same way the Law Society, which has used PR firms for years, has hired Edelmann with the brief of handling PR on its opposition to government plans to extend conveying to banks and building societies.

There is also a monitoring function. David Edwards, the Law Society's deputy secretary-general, says: "There is a recognition, probably a healthy one, by people like us and in government that consultants can be very useful for an objective view. It is perfectly



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

SOFT TALK OR HARD CHOICE?

Parliament is the place where government policy on aid should be critically examined since "Aid" is in fact the transfer of taxpayers' money from one government to another, sometimes through the intermediate offices of international organisations. Such transfers are thus a wholly political matter, at both ends of the transaction. One would not have guessed that from listening to last week's Commons debate, indeed the word "debate" was a misnomer. The occasion more closely resembled a seminar of UNCTAD delegates determined to spend other peoples' money by interfering in the way that other governments choose to run their economies.

Most MPs seem to imagine that they can insist on recipient governments altering their policies on population control, water resources, agriculture, education, nutrition, industrialisation and so on. It was left to Mr Bowen Wells, late in the day, to remind the House that "we have to work in the context of the country concerned and the government that rules it. We are not a colonial power and we cannot simply say 'you must do development work in this way'."

No speech supported the government but they all revealed an inner contradiction. The critical thrust called for more specific action, more spontaneous response to local demand, immediate funding and the permanent insulation of foreign transfers from the effect of oscillations in the value of sterling - something which is denied to the rest of us.

With few exceptions there was no attempt to scrutinise the specific details of the British bilateral aid budget which, at £693 million still represents three fifths of total transfers, nor to examine the workings of the ECED which is also at the government's discretion nor to discuss appropriate combinations of commercial capital flow with government grants. There was little understanding

by back benchers that none of these transfers is deserving in itself. Each has to be judged by results.

Instead the MPs showed an obsession with volume. Mr Reginald Prentice, a former aid minister, fell into the trap of saying that quantity was the clearest single test of our commitment to help people to help themselves, a statement which reveals only too clearly the fundamental fallacy to which our contributions to multi-lateral agencies - and their own aggregate approach - are exposed.

Only Mr Amery seemed to enter a caveat by regretting that transfers were measured simply in terms of quantity and not by what such measures produce. The worst aspect of this obsession with quantity is that it deprives parliament of the means of scrutiny to see that transfers are value for money. Such accountability is lost to us in the maw of international agencies, whereas in fact the whole tenor of last week's Commons discussion suggested that MPs wanted help to go in many cases directly in grants from the British government to non-governmental aid agencies.

Mr Steel's example of the single voluntary worker in Botswana who helped to open up three wells for a village of 5,000 people is more inspiring than any number of steel mills to India, or World Bank schemes which start, finish and are funded in a miasma of obfuscations.

If anybody needed to be convinced of the ineffectiveness of the quantitative approach to aid, as opposed to one which asks the questions "But what is it for and what are the results?" he only had to wait one day to read an interview in *The Times* with President Nyerere of Tanzania. Here is a man whose government has presided over the forced removal of millions of his citizens from their homes into collective farms, imprisonment of thousands of detainees without trial, the dispatch of his troops to interfere in several

neighbouring territories, expropriations and expulsions. Yet for 20 years he has received, almost without question, more Western aid than any other country in Africa. It has not worked. He complains that his farming is backward. He encourages the recipients of aid to repudiate their debts. He blames everybody but himself.

Hard cases make bad law but there must be better specific answers to the question "What is aid for?" than the example provided by Tanzania. The general presumption is that it makes donors feel good morally and that it contributes in some imprecise way to the growth of world prosperity. That is vitiated time and again by the facts. It always will be so until aid is subjected to more critical cost benefit analysis for donor and recipient together.

We cannot expect such an approach from Mr Heath or any other member of the Brandt commission. Mr Heath, in the Commons, preferred to eschew detailed analysis. He said he was discussing how to secure British influence. That is an appropriate standard for the British Council and the BBC, those quite undeserving victims of Sir Geoffrey's struggle to avoid offending the aid lobby which had been largely inspired by the emotional scenes of Ethiopian famine on television screens; but not for aid. Such famine relief should not need to distort a discussion about the long term question of the most appropriate British contribution to productive investment in the third world. Official transfers need to be much more precisely evaluated. They need to escape from the uncritical "axiomatic" approach based on an idea that Britain can score "Brownie" points internationally simply by being associated in some measureless way with good causes. It is easy to buy popularity with somebody else's money. Responsibility is a harder task, but at least can be measured by results.

MORE DISCREET PROXIMITY ON CYPRUS

President Kyprianou of Cyprus and the man who would like to be seen as his opposite number - "President" Rauf Denktaş of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" - are in New York for their third round of "proximity talks" this autumn, conducted through the UN secretary-general, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar.

The atmosphere of discretion surrounding the talks has kept Cyprus off the front pages and TV news bulletins, in contrast to the blaze of publicity and hand-wringing which followed the proclamation of Mr Denktaş's Lilliputian republic a year ago. As on a number of previous occasions since 1974, the Greek Cypriots have refrained from seeking renewed condemnation of Turkish actions in the UN General Assembly and other international gatherings in order not to give Mr Denktaş a pretext for refusing further talks; while he on his side has accepted a moratorium on the development of the institutions of his new state while the talks are in progress.

That is consistent with his claim to be still interested in

making the state one of the constituent parts of a "bi-zonal, bi-communal federation", of which the Greek Cypriots would form the other half. But in practice it probably has more to do with the anxiety of his mainland Turkish backers to keep the issue out of the world limelight until the *fait accompli* has acquired the patina of respectability that comes with age.

The fact that the two leaders are going back for a third round does not imply that any real progress was made in the previous two. Rather it reflects the determination of the secretary-general to keep the talks going - though even he has had to declare this round the "final" one - and the unwillingness of either side to take responsibility for breaking them off.

For ten years now the Turks have held all the cards in Cyprus except international recognition. The Greeks understandably cling to that one card, but are finding that its exchange value in terms of tangible benefits is much less than they had hoped. An international system supposedly designed to resolve disputes

peacefully and deter aggression proves unable or unwilling in practice to do more than maintain a formal question mark over the *fait accompli* with which the world is littered - East Timor, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Eritrea etc. Only where an individual state is able and willing to meet force with force - as in the Falklands - can a *fait accompli* be reversed.

That being so, realism obliges even the UN secretary-general to propose a "solution" which is little more than acceptance of the *fait accompli* with a fig-leaf-like federal superstructure, and even that is by no means sure of Turkish acceptance. Meanwhile in Turkish-occupied Cyprus an enormous airport is being constructed, with funds derived directly or indirectly from the United States, for purposes which are unclear but which Greek Cypriots believe to be connected with the US Central Command (ex-Rapid Deployment Force). Dr Kissinger used to call Archbishop Makarios "the Castro of the Mediterranean". It might be no more fanciful to see Mr Rauf Denktaş as its Maurice Bishop.

There may be a disproportionate number of homosexual men among the carriers of Aids; there certainly is among its victims. I was sorry to see no trace of compassion for these victims in your leader, nor any suggestion that precautions in the blood-transfusion service will not suffice alone; they should be accompanied by more investment in research into the syndrome's causes.

Our repugnance should be directed at Aids itself, not at those who may be unwittingly involved in its transmission.

Yours faithfully,
STEVEN BOTTERILL,
Queens' College,
Cambridge.
November 21.

Aids and means

From Dr Steven Botterill

Sir, The "corrosive and atavistic" horror which your leader-writer (November 21) identifies as attached to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids) seems to have had an unfortunate effect on his human sympathies. Neither the origins nor the means of propagation of Aids have been definitively established and several social groups other than male homosexuals seem to be particularly vulnerable to it.

In these circumstances, to speak of "retribution", or to use this terrible affliction as a stick with which to beat the advocates of full civil rights for homosexual people, goes beyond folly into cruelty.

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Yours faithfully,
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November 21.

From Dr Ian M. Franklin

Sir, Your editorial regarding Aids I fear misses the point in urging restrictions on donors based upon their previous sexual histories. What is required is for the National Health Service to become fully self-sufficient in terms of blood products. Only then will we have the degree of control over our donor population needed to prevent further outbreaks of blood-borne infections.

The Secretary of State should act now to bring forward the date by

which we become self-sufficient. He should also make sure that adequate funds are available to blood-transfusion centre directors so that screening tests for Aids or other infections may be implemented as soon as they become available.

Inquiries about a donor's sexual preferences at the point of donation are likely to be counter-productive.

Yours faithfully,
IAN M. FRANKLIN,
Co-director, Haemophilia Centre,
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham.

From Lady Airey of Abingdon

Sir, In his recent speech (report, November 21) Mr Peter Walker is critical of the Government for their lack of endeavour to cure unemployment.

It is not in the hands of his department to do more to help solve this problem than that of any other minister in the Cabinet?

Professor Ian Fells, of Newcastle University, has most strongly recommended that orders should be placed for two new AGR (advanced gas-cooled reactor) nuclear stations, copies of which at Heysham and Torness (which, I am informed, are performing well on both programme and price). Such an order for one station would give four years' work to between 30,000 and 40,000 men and two stations would give four years' work to at least 70,000 in an area of high unemployment, with the subsequent benefit of likely overseas orders for an all-British product.

It is therefore necessary to continue the rigorous and expensive marathon of the Sizewell enquiry when the potential success of the British AGR system is becoming daily more obvious?

Yours faithfully,
AIREY OF ABINGDON,
House of Lords,
November 21.

From Mr John D. Bu'Lock

Sir, We must all hope that the missile systems of Professor Mason's military friends are more accurately on-target than his response to Professor Irvine (Letters, November 20, 22).

The relative costs of finding new methods of killing people, and of making the new methods reliable, are not at issue. Rather than the adequacy of excess of our expenditure on research and/or development of military technology - on which there is room for more than one opinion - the concern of most scientists and technologists is with the very serious inadequacy of our non-military R & D (research and development) provision, about which there is virtual unanimity outside the Treasury.

Including military costs in the overall R & D budget may serve to swell patriotic chests, but it also obscures the very real damage that is being done to Britain's productive capability in advanced science and technology by current policies.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN D. BU'LOCK,
205 Stockport Road,
Marple,
Stockport,
Cheshire.

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AIREY OF ABINGDON,
House of Lords,
November 21.

From Mr Richard Seddon

Sir, Regarding Mrs Quest-Ritson's query (November 10) as to the right age at which to address one's son as "Esquire" and the suggestion by Mr William Callaghan (November 15) of the eighth, and at latest eleventh, birthday, the probably correct answer could be "Never".

On January 26, 1893, Richmond Herald (C. H. Athill, Esq.) stated from the College of Heralds:

The following persons are legally "Esquires": The sons of peers, the sons of baronets, the sons of knights, the eldest sons of the younger sons of peers, and their eldest sons in perpetuity, the eldest son of the eldest son of a knight, and his eldest son in perpetuity, the kings of arms, the heralds of arms, officers of the Army or Navy of the rank of captain and upwards, sheriffs of counties for life, 17th of counties whilst in commission, sergeants-at-law, Queen's (King's) counsel, sergeants-at-law, Companions of the Orders of Knighthood, certain principal officers in the Royal Household, deputy lieutenants, commissioners of the Court of Bankruptcy, masters of the Supreme Court, those whom the Sovereign, in any commission or warrant, styles esquire, and any person who, in virtue of his office, takes precedence of esquires.

Unless one or other of the boys attains one of the qualifications listed above, in later life, none of them will be entitled to it.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SEDDON,
6 Arlesley Close, SW15.

From Mr Geoffrey Lee

Sir, As one of the many thousands of parents to be affected by the proposed scale increases for tertiary education, may I state that my strong objections are not to principle but to degree.

It seems to me that a move toward charges more directly related to income is socially fair and desirable; however, the large and sudden increases now put forward appear to be totally unjustified, and their effect will be destructive.

Many parents who have planned sensibly for years, duly making allowance for some measure of increase, will now find their plans in ruins. Many will be unable to accommodate the abrupt jump in costs, with adverse effects on their children.

Far preferable would have been an announcement of annual moves toward a long-term objective of appropriate charges for adequate education funding. This would probably have cost far more acceptable to those involved than the crude leap just revealed.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY LEE,
75 The Heights,
Foxgrove Road,
Beckenham,
Kent.
November 17.

From Dr Audrey M. Lambert

Sir, Dr Jack L. Hoppé (November 21) surmises that the proposed parental contributions to the tuition fees of students in higher education may cause their parents to take an interest in the quality of the tuition they receive. Might one also hope that they would take an equal interest in how hard their offspring work?

Yours sincerely,
AUDREY M. LAMBERT,
12 Hawbury Drive,
Ruislip,
Middlesex.
November 23.

From Mr Tom Hoosen, MP for Brecon and Radnor (Conservative)

Sir, I suggest with respect that your correspondence on advertising and the BBC started from the wrong point. Sir Richard Davies's letter (November 14) lifts the debate to a more appropriate strategic basis by asking "What is the BBC for?" He cites four specific areas where the present aspirations of the BBC exceed both the country's needs and the corporation's finances.

Like many parliamentary colleagues who are now beginning to express their views in early-day motions, I believe the Government should not entertain any increase whatever in the present £46 television licence fee. I am fearful, however, that recent utterances by Home Office ministers hint that the usual cosy Home Office-BBC alliance is preparing the way for a proposal for about a 55% fee and for avoidance of much thinking about Sir Richard's simple but embarrassing question.

The fact that a management review of the BBC is under way has been publicised; anyone learning that this is under the BBC's control will expect little from it. If one cuts through the BBC's idealised view of itself, what actually exists is a badly managed, over-stuffed and over-extended empire, as much in need of pruning as were British Steel, British Leyland and the NCB. When can viewers expect to see a BBC TV exposure of its inefficient work practices and of the large investment in computer technology lying idle in newsrooms because of lack of will to manage resources lest any interest group might be upset?

ITN television news programmes have long been recognised as formidable competitors for the BBC. In the recent Emmy awards Britain made a clean sweep of the awards open for non-US competitors - but all five awards went to British independent television companies.

The whole television scene is close to far-reaching new satellite and cable developments of the type for which a bureaucracy steeped in self-satisfaction and internal politics is ill-adapted for survival, let alone success. To allow the BBC large funds to make large mistakes in areas better suited to entrepreneurs would be a poor step by a Government usually dubious about corporatism.

The only basis for the Government to let the BBC get what it is about to demand is an expedient view that the BBC has formidable lobbying resources - and that a Government cannot fight too many battles at a time. The BBC's lobbying muscle was evident in Bush House's success in fighting off very reasonable economising in many foreign language trans-

missions with negligible audiences. I admire elements in the BBC's inheritance, and I believe there is a need for a licence fee to finance various services of great value. Radios 3 and 4 are outstanding examples.

Those who cherish such services now need to be alert against empire-building efforts to obtain finance for many less necessary activities. They also need to subject the BBC's standard lobbying argument - that the fringes are indispensable contributors to a national network - to closer factual scrutiny than it has ever received.

The BBC organisation men will not believe it yet, but the best protection of its heritage would be a decisive refusal of increased funds so that a long overdue concentration on essentials can begin.

Yours faithfully,
TOM HOOSON,
House of Commons,
November 22.

From the Chairman of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts

Sir, Mr Bernard Levin's amusing column, "The way we live now" (November 17) takes no cognizance of one factor which might affect the BBC's reasons for not wanting to allow advertising.

BBC production costs, especially in drama, are roughly half those of any other organization. This is not solely due to careful bookkeeping: it is a direct reflection of the low fees paid to artists, directors, writers and technicians.

As a freelance producer/director I have been closely involved with budgeting both for the BBC and the major programme contractors. I can assure you that the differentials are sometimes staggering.

Furthermore, manning levels of technical crews are considerably lower at the BBC.

Why these differentials should be accepted, albeit sometimes grudgingly so, is because those who work for the BBC accept its unique position, indeed its endemic poverty.

Should it enter the market place and compete on equal terms with ITV programme contractors its scale of fees would have to be radically revised. I, for one, would expect the sort of reimbursement I am used to getting in ITV. Production costs would rise sharply.

Advertising revenue does not come out of the air like ambrosia - it comes from the public who, in the end, would pay.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES CELLAN JONES,
Chairman,
British Academy of Film and Television Arts,
195 Piccadilly, W1.
November 19.

From Mr Alan P. Hughes

Sir, The pull-out supplement of the British Telecom prospectus that you have just published (November 20) has confirmed my fears. None of the earlier advertising, or of the eight-page mini prospectuses now circulating, mentioned (as far as I could trace) that the shares have a nominal value of 25p. These are being offered to first-time buyers at 130p.

Some 60 years ago, when I made my first forays into the financial world of shares, I was chary of buying shares above their nominal value. Later, of course, I realised that the nominal value was immaterial, but there has been no campaign to bring this home to the hoped-for first-time investors. Many of those, applying on the eight-page mini prospectuses, will, I suspect, be surprised to find that they have paid 130p for a share clearly marked 25p.

In other words, instead of juggling with the price and ending up with 130p they could have juggled the number of shares available and made it more comprehensible for the first-time buyer they are so ardently trying to woo.

Faithfully,
ALAN P. HUGHES,
136 Northey Avenue,
Cheadam, Surrey.
November 21.

From Mr Spencer G. Maurice

Sir, Pace Mr Francis Bennion (November 14), the Sex Discrimination (Removal) Act 1919 does not render unlawful refusal of the ordination of women. "Civil" means "not ecclesiastical": see *The Oxford English Dictionary*.

On the other hand section 19 (1) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 provides that the provisions in that Act concerned with discrimination in the employment field shall not

apply "to employment for purposes of an organised religion where the employment is limited to one sex so as to comply with the doctrines of the religion or avoid offending the religious susceptibilities of a significant number of its followers."

That is very much in point in the Church of England today. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
SPENCER G. MAURICE,
17 Old Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
November 14.

From Mr D. B. Taylor

Sir, I am not a friend of Mr Gummer, but I am a member of the Church of England, and Sir David Lane (November 21) allows altogether too much scope to the bishops.

They are entitled to speak on political matters, but I think they should be asked to avoid giving the impression that they are recommending a policy of their own, rather than simply drawing attention to defects in existing policy.

Too many pronouncements in recent days have had that flavour and Mr Gummer is quite right to point out that they have neither the expertise nor the mandate to set themselves up as public advocates of this or that policy.

As private citizens in private conversations they have the same rights as all of us; as public officers of the established Church their right to air their views with absolute frankness is necessarily curtailed, particularly on questions that begin to sound increasingly like party politics.

Exactly the same principle is applied to judges, soldiers, civil servants and so forth. And on the other hand we already have public figures, the opposition party politicians, whose acknowledged task it is to do just what the bishops seem so anxious to volunteer for.

Like the bishops, they try at all times to sound morally outraged; unlike the bishops, they do not

expect the rest of us to be convinced - nor are we. Are the bishops content that their pronouncements will increasingly be evaluated in the same cynical terms?

One final point: It is at all times unacceptable that even a bishop (whether English or foreign) should be allowed to claim that, unlike the rest of us, his views have a kind of divine authenticity.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TAYLOR,
12 Bigwood Park,
Radley,
Oxfordshire.

From Dr G. H. Hughes

Sir, In view of the undoubted worldly wisdom of your readers it was not to be expected that the lord mayors' programme presented by Cordelia Lady Vanneck (November 20) should prove so difficult.

The solution used by a superlative lord mayor at his reception for NAVS (Victim Support) this year was brilliant in its simplicity. Just behind the lord mayor and half a pace to his right was an attractive waitress holding a tray of glasses of wine. No undue delay or protracted gossiping was observed.

Yours faithfully,
G. H. HUGHES,
Victim Support,
Birmingham B Division,
449 Brook Lane,
Kings Heath,
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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

If the BBC is asset rich, why should we pay more?

The BBC's claim for an increase in the colour television licensing fee from £46 to about £65 it would be the first rise since December 1981 is causing more than ripples in the sensitive pool of the Beeb's finances. The 41 per cent increase the corporation wants could add 0.5 per cent to the Retail Price Index, conceivably just before the annual spring up-rating of social security payments.

As the latter is index-linked, satisfying the BBC would swell public expenditure by a pro forma £150 million.

Understandably the Government is appalled at the prospect. Schemes to supplement the BBC's revenue are being desperately examined. A crackdown on licence-dodgers and taxes on car radios are two of them. ITV companies may also find their profits levied increased.

But should the BBC receive any increase at all in the licence? Should the fee be cut? The answer is by no means clear from the BBC's accounts. The latest available figures are not only at least two years out of date. They are also prepared along ultra conservative lines.

The BBC Handbook for 1983 includes figures for the financial year ended March 31, 1982. The 1984 Handbook, due out shortly will presumably carry the financial story only up to the spring of last year.

At the heart of the problem of assessing the BBC's finances - and hence the validity of its claim for a bigger licence fee - is the corporation's ambivalent attitude to capital and revenue. Under the BBC's Royal Charter, the corporation may, at its discretion, write off all capital expenditure in the year in which it is incurred against revenue, as opposed to making a charge for depreciation. Since capital expenditure in recent years has been running at around £70 million, double the rate of the late seventies, the income and expenditure account has looked occasionally uneasy. Yet had a portion, not the whole, of the useful life of the asset been charged against the year's trading, then a far healthier trading picture would have been shown to the world. In 1981-82 for example, depreciation of £38 million might have been charged compared with capital expenditure of £66 million.

Doubtless, the BBC would argue that it is financially conservative in the interests of prudence, but its claim that it is overrunning its budget needs to be seen in the context of its accounting techniques.

Disquiet over vendor placings

Insurance companies and pension funds, by far the biggest consumers of shares in this country, are about to take a detailed look at how equal they are with the smaller shareholders. Of course the two are not equal at all. The financial institution with millions to spend has quite a different appetite from the private individual whose portfolio is limited. The question is whether the two should be treated equally.

The issue has been raised again by a recent spate of vendor placings. This is a method used by companies to raise cash quickly by getting a number of institutions to agree to buy shares issued to pay for an acquisition but which the selling company does not wish to keep. The shares, normally pitched at an attractive discount to the market price, are taken momentarily by the seller and then immediately bought by the institutions for cash.

To many it is a form of cheap rights issue. The difference is that in a rights issue all shareholders get the chance to participate. In a vendor placing, the right extends to only a select few.

Disquiet over these placings has been simmering for some time. Usually the number of shares placed represents only a single figure percentage of the existing equity. But the size of recent vendor placings by Ward White, Saatchi & Saatchi and Dee Corporation is well into

double figures, in a range of between 30 and 44 per cent.

Ironically, although not participants, it could be argued that the small shareholders have done well. The share prices of all three companies have risen sharply in the market following actual and proposed acquisitions. Saatchi's added a full 100p. Those who got the shares on the day did even better.

But for Mr David Hopkinson, chairman of the M&G, Britain's largest unit trust group which first voiced concern publicly, it is a point of principle. Before Christmas, it is likely that the investment protection committees of both the insurance and pension industry will join him.

The rights of the small shareholder to all equity issued by a company, and for those shares to be issued to everyone at the same price, is part of the self-regulatory mechanism currently under the microscope. By coincidence, the Stock Exchange has just issued a discussion paper seeking views on where potential conflicts of interest lie in a restructured City.

One of its points is that a "Chinese wall" should be erected between a firm's corporate finance department and its own securities operations, and a compliance officer in each firm should be appointed to see procedures are observed.

By the same token, the value of the corporation's assets may be massively understated. According to the 1983 Handbook, the BBC still depreciates freehold and long leasehold land and buildings and there is not much sign that these assets are ever revalued.

Can it be that freehold land and buildings valued in the balance sheet under Radio at £22 million is Broadcast House? Is the TV Centre valued at £52 million? Does the £1.9 million entry under Programme Stocks for BBC Recording relate to the world famous BBC archives?

It is hard to answer these questions with certainty, not least because the BBC is reluctant to discuss them.

But if the asset figures are foggy, so too do the income and expenditure data. The key figure which is missing is the total wages bill. All that is offered, apart from the revelation that in 1981-82, another 192 employees pushed their wages into the £20,000-£25,000 bracket, is an entry under "Operating expenditure" for "Production and other staff costs". This entry can mean "Production costs and other staff costs", or "Production staff costs and other staff costs". Assuming the latter, then the BBC's wage bill is 44 per cent of total revenue. At Thames TV, the bill runs at around 27 per cent of revenue.

What is indisputable however, is that something is going wrong at the Beeb. The corporation appears to be chronically short of money. Annual income is now well over the £500 million mark. Yet, judging from the accounts, the Corporation survived one financial crisis in the early eighties only by dint of stringent economies. Borrowings shot ahead at the turn of the decade.

Taking July 29, 1977, as a starting point, and assuming that the BBC is granted a licence fee of £65, the fee would have gone up by 209 per cent, or double the estimated rate of inflation over the same period (98 per cent).

On one reading, the BBC is asset rich and cash flow poor. It has a number of choices, including cutting back programme costs, generating capital receipts by selling off some of the assets and taking in advertising. The value of accounts prepared on an up to date basis is that they would show just how acute the BBC's financial problem really is.

Strong dollar and oil price fears push pound to \$1.20

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound dropped by nearly two cents against the dollar yesterday and the sterling index briefly touched its all-time low of 74.0. Dealers said the pound's fall was mainly a reflection of another sharp bout of dollar strength, although fears of lower crude oil prices also hit sterling.

Sterling closed at \$1.20, down 1.85 cents on the day, after trading at \$1.1975 during the afternoon. The sterling index closed just above its all-time low at 74.2, representing a fall of 0.7 on the day.

The pound's average value has fallen from 76.8, reached on November 13, a drop of 3.4 per cent in less than a fortnight. Against the dollar, the pound has fallen by more than seven cents.

Yesterday's dollar rise - it gained nearly 1.5 pence against the mark to DM3.0585 - came in spite of a cut in US prime rates from 11.75 to 11.5 per cent, led by Citibank. The dollar index rose 1.1 to 141.9.

Apart from the effects of the dollar's rise, however, sterling was generally weak yesterday. Continued spot market weakness for oil prices, Britain's policy of raising interest rates down as fast as possible and a lessening of what is described as "the BT factor" - the flow of foreign money across the exchanges - into this week's British Telecom issue - were all cited as reasons for sterling vulnerability.

"The pound is very short of friends at the moment," said one dealer. Sterling lost 2.5 pence against the mark to DM3.6725, and 7.7 centimes against the French franc to Fr11.2430.

The pound's weakness has produced a firming of interest rates in the money markets, although not to a level which would imply an early reversal of last week's half-point cut in base rates.

With three-month interbank rate closing at 9.9 per cent yesterday, Barclays, which is out of line with the other clearing banks with a base rate of 9.75 per cent, is unlikely to be in any hurry to trim its base rate to 9.5 per cent.

The continuing fall in oil prices on the world spot markets is increasing pressure on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to have a new agreement, on how its differential price structure is operated, ready for adoption at its next full meeting, on December 19, David Young, Energy Correspondent, writes.

Opec is understood to be considering two options to restore stability to the world oil market, which had so far failed to respond to Opec's official output cut with a firming of prices.

The first option involves a price cut from the present official market price of \$29 a barrel and a compression of the present differential price structure. The second, and the option likely to win most support, is to leave the price unchanged, but to select a heavier crude as the new benchmark.

Mr Terracciano said that Chase had been looking for London stock market partners for about a year. The two brokers had come to it separately, and the idea of buying both was "irresistible". Both will begin to cooperate immediately.

Laurie, Milbank is one of the strongest plus brokers while Simon & Coates has built an expertise in the four-year-old unlisted securities market.

Mr Michael Prag, senior partner of Simon & Coates, said: "There is a vast untapped market out there of people wanting to have their money managed. We have had a modest advertising campaign which has produced an amazing response from such people. We think Chase could help us to develop this."

Mr Anthony Terracciano, chief financial officer of Chase, said that there would be no need to put much new capital into the firms until after the rules change, when Chase hopes to be a primary dealer in the gilt-edged securities market. This is likely to require capital of about £30m.

Well over one million applications for British Telecom shares have already been received, making it virtually certain that the final tally will be comfortably in excess of two million by the time the offer formally closes tomorrow morning.

Staff at the six main receiving banks in London were already "knee-deep" in application forms yesterday afternoon, according to reliable reports, showing that first-time investors in particular have responded positively to the call to get their applications in early.

Estimates of the final number of applications likely to be received are now well at the top end of original expectations, with a final figure of two and a half million not being officially discouraged.

Kleinwort Benson, the Government's merchant bank adviser, now has to decide in consultation with the Government what the method and level of share allocations should be. With the political imperative of wider share ownership in mind, every attempt is being made to avoid having a ballot among would-be investors.

All the indications are that every legitimate investor will be guaranteed a minimum amount of stock, with larger applications being scaled down, possibly quite drastically, depending on the final degree of response.

Electricity Supply Nominees, the pension fund managers for the electricity industry's employees has removed the management of £350 million of its property portfolio from Richard Ellis, the chartered surveyors which it is suing over the project management of the Trocadero development in Piccadilly Circus.

A rival firm Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks has won the bid for the management contract. Richard Ellis has been handling the ESN portfolio since 1962 and its present contract ends next April. It manages about £2 billion of property worldwide excluding the ESN properties.

Mr Sterling is maintaining his customary silence about the year's outcome. But the interim dividend has risen from 0.325p to 0.5p net, and this can be taken as a sign of confidence. The shares rose 3 1/2p to 63p on the news.

Mr Peter Rees, the chief Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday defended the present system of public spending control.

Mr Rees, addressing the International Herald Tribune Foreign Exchange Conference in London, said: "It has been suggested from time to time - particularly after a hard public expenditure round - with dramatic but usually inaccurate reports of 'blood on the Chief Secretary's carpet' - that a smoother more effective technique should be evolved."

Professor Moore had similar doubts about the practical effects of pension transfers. "Since transfer values depend on frozen benefits, with an added dimension of uncertainty in the interest rate used to capitalize those benefits, unease with them is equally likely to remain," he said.

He was equally sceptical about the Government's tentative plans to introduce personal portable pensions for employees.

Chase to buy leading brokers

By William Kay City Editor

Chase Manhattan Corporation of the US, one of the world's biggest banking groups, will rank as one of London's top 10 stockbrokers when the Stock Exchange is liberalized in two years.

Yesterday Chase announced that it is to take over two of the leading stockbrokers, Simon & Coates and Laurie, Milbank. Each stands just outside the present top 10, but together they will leapfrog several rivals.

Simon & Coates has 28 partners and 230 staff, while Laurie, Milbank has 33 partners and 224 staff. Neither they nor Chase would be drawn on how many would be made redundant.

Although no contracts are to be signed until January 31, Chase will initially become a limited partner in the two brokers, taking an unspecified minority stake in the Stock Exchange rules permit the US bank to own the entire equity of both brokers.



Michael Prag: 'a vast untapped market'

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P&O stake lifts profits at Sterling

By Our City Editor

Profits of Sterling Guaranty Trust, the property and services group, rose from £5.5 million to £10.1 million in the half-year to September 28.

One of the main contributors to the increase was an interim dividend of nearly £2 million from the company's investment in P & O.

However, the services division increased its turnover by nearly £10 million to £80.1 million, thanks in part to better attendances at exhibitions and other events held on the group's premises at Earl's Court and Olympia. Chief among these was the success of this summer's Royal Tournament.

Below the tax line, capital profits fell from £6.1 million to £2 million, mainly because there were fewer sales of property. Mr Jeffrey Sterling indicated yesterday that this would be balanced by increased sales in the present half-year, to release funds for investment elsewhere.

The other significant change which will be disclosed in the annual results in that P & O investment will be equity accounted. This suggests that a profit of about £6.5 million will be credited for the period, offset by an extra £2 million in related interest charges.

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Public spending controls upheld

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US rates fall as Fed acts

From Bailey Morris Washington

American interest rates declined broadly yesterday in response to vigorous action by the Federal Reserve Board to stimulate the flagging US economy amid growing concerns that nothing substantive will be done to reduce the massive federal budget deficits.

Citibank led the list of leading American banks which dropped their prime lending rates yesterday to 11 1/2 per cent from the previous base rate of 11 3/4 per cent adopted on November 7.

The action was taken in response to last week's decision by the Fed, which acts as a central bank, to stimulate further declines in rates by cutting the discount rate to 8 1/2 per cent from 9 per cent.

The new drop in rates coincided with the resumption of high-level talks at the White House on President Reagan's fiscal priorities for his second term, specifically on ways to reduce record federal deficits, projected at \$210 billion (£176 billion) for this fiscal year.

White House officials hope to break this week the internal stalemate which emerged in earlier talks among the President's close advisers on fiscal policies for the next four years.

The talks are being held as evidence accumulates that the US economy is weakening further. The sharp contraction in US gross national product to a growth rate of only 1.9 per cent in the third quarter from 7.1 per cent in the second quarter was expected to be matched this Thursday by a significant decline in the US index of leading indicators for last month.

It is because of the sharper-than-expected downturn in United States economic growth that the Fed has moved aggressively to pump up the economy.

Mr Henry Kaufman, the chief economist of Salomon Brothers, predicted yesterday that the Fed would lower the discount rate again in January if renewed growth in the M-1 measure of United States money supply fails to occur quickly. He said the Fed has signalled its intention to keep rates on a downward path, at least over the short term.

Over the longer term, much depends on what actions are taken to reduce spiralling federal budget deficits.

New surveyors for ESN

By Judith Huntley, Commercial Property Correspondent

Electricity Supply Nominees, the pension fund managers for the electricity industry's employees has removed the management of £350 million of its property portfolio from Richard Ellis, the chartered surveyors which it is suing over the project management of the Trocadero development in Piccadilly Circus.

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Link House accepts bid

United Newspapers, publishers of the *Yorkshire Post* and *Punch*, has made an £89 million recommended bid for Link House Publications, which owns *Exchange & Mart*.

When United Newspapers decided to diversify away from newspapers three and a half years ago, it made 90 per cent of its profits from the United Kingdom. By the end of this year, in which United Newspapers forecasts pretax profits of not less than £18 million against £8.86 million in 1983, the group will derive only 30 per cent of its profits from newspapers and 60 per cent from the United States.

Link House makes nearly 90 per cent of its profits from three publications - *Exchange & Mart*, *Industrial Exchange & Mart* and *Opportunity*. It is forecasting pretax profits in the year to June 30, 1985, of £9 million against £7.9 million in 1983/4. The family-controlled business has given irrevocable undertakings to United Newspapers for 55 per cent of the shares, and a further 4 per cent have come from funds managed by Samuel Montagu.

The terms of the offer are 247 United Newspapers shares for every 100 Link shares, with a cash alternative at 680p. United Newspapers shares fell 10p to 299p and Link shares rose 128p to 713p.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Harvester to sell assets

Tenneco, the US conglomerate

Six men shaping the future of the Stock Exchange talk to The Times. The first, Eddie George, is interviewed by Sarah Hogg

The aim is to open the market to greater competition

One man has had, from the beginning, a specific interest in the manner in which the Stock Exchange revolution would remake the City of London; and perhaps a unique influence over its development. Mr Eddie George is the Bank of England's executive director concerned with domestic monetary policy in general, and the operation of Britain's gilt-edged market in particular. Shortly after the Bank's publication of its draft blueprint of the future structure of that market, Mr George agreed to talk to me about its implications.

This interview is itself evidence of the way the Bank of England is changing opening up under the stimulus of structural upheavals in its constituency, combined with a greater readiness outside the Bank to question its decisions. It is a change Mr George has watched from the inside.

Looking back 20 years to his days on lower rungs of the Bank's ladder, it was "certainly my impression that the Bank could then assert a position or opinion that went largely unchallenged... Now of course I'm not in a position to say whether that's what it felt like to the people actually making those judgments, but certainly over the time that I've been closer to decision-making, it's been increasingly the case that we've had to argue our position and justify it to all our constituencies - to the City, to Whitehall and to Parliament."

This is a situation with which he feels "much more comfortable": a statement which is not too hard to believe, coming from a man who adds more to his reputation, outside the Bank, as a persuasive communicator between Threadneedle Street and Downing Street during the early, scratchy days of the Thatcher Government.

Yet in many respects Eddie George is at the conservative end of the Bank's internal range of attitudes to change in the City. He admitted that from the start he had had "a fairly lively perception of the risks in making fundamental change, and making it from one day to another."

Had his view changed, I asked him, over the months of consultation? What had impressed him, he said, was the way, over the past 16 months "everyone has been forced to face up to some fundamental questions in a full frontal way... It's called into question the *raison d'être* of a lot of arrangements, rules, conventions and so on." As a result, he has become "rather more hopeful" of avoiding the pitfalls involved in change.

The Bank's newly-published "blue paper" contains its

answers to many of these questions. Extensive consultations in advance ensured a pretty tranquil reception in the City, but some questioning too. The inevitable suspicion all along has been that the Bank was determined to ensure that any changes in the gilt-edged market worked to its own advantage, as government debt salesman, rather than to the wider advantages of the British securities industry. This was a suspicion Mr George refuted when I inquired as to what extent he expected the changes to ease the job of financing government.

"The primary purpose of the change is not to ease the business of government funding... the basic aim is to open the market up to greater competition. I think we feel this can make our market structure more compatible with structures overseas, and that in turn may help to improve the competitiveness of British securities firms internationally. We will perhaps end up with a more robust structure."

But, as the Bank's paper hints, the changes will permit some new funding techniques. Enlarging on these, Mr George made "the obvious comparison" with the American system.

Bank will take on greater discretionary responsibility

of regular auctions. "That's something we will want to look at: auctions, or perhaps underwritten tenders, or perhaps placings - all of which will become possible because there will be a pool of capital among the market makers that we just don't have at the moment." Breathing caution, he none the less found it "difficult to envisage a circumstance in which we would want to deprive ourselves of the very considerable flexibility we have through our operations directly into the secondary market."

Through these speculations,

the Bank's central aim comes like a refrain: "preserving and hopefully improving the liquidity of the market place." This concern with liquidity determines the Bank's response to calls for a "last trade tape" for investor protection, planned for the equities market but not for the gilts market, at least to begin with.

"I think," said Mr George, "the important thing to understand is that gilts and equities are quite different financial instruments. Gilts are much more homogeneous - we have a hundred or so stocks, and all of them are more or less influenced by the same macroeconomic factors. Equities are very different: there are a few thousand, and they don't necessarily respond to the same factors at all."

Second, he argued, the two trading structures differ: participants look to make money in different ways. "In gilts it will probably depend more on position-taking; in equities on trading and the spread on purchases and sales."

All of which leads up to his concern about a tape in the gilt market: that it might damage liquidity. "You could, for example, find that a market maker would be inhibited from bidding for a large amount of stock, if the fact of his purchase was going to be revealed to the world at large, since the fact that he was going to have to dispose of it would also be known and might work against him."

Liquidity is obviously useful to the Bank - but how high does the investor rank it in comparison with the protection of a tape? Mr George argues that it is just as important as other aspects of protection: "It's not good an investor feeling he's got the best available price unless he can also feel he's got a good price." And it is, he argues, "no coincidence that there's no government securities market anywhere in the world that has a last trade tape - including the United States, where of course there's a good deal of enthusiasm for it in the equities market."

For the large investor, Mr George believed, the "essential protection" will stem from "the intensity of competition in the market-making centre of the gilt market." The small investor, having his business done on an agency basis, will have a time-stamped contract that he will be able to compare with official lists of time-related prices, "and that's something not available under present arrangements."

Then, naturally, he pointed



to the audit trails to be carried out by the Stock Exchange. This is an important part of the Bank's defence of its requirements that all market-makers should be members of the Stock Exchange, which looks suspiciously like the replacement of one restrictive practice with another. The Stock Exchange, said Mr George, has done "a terrific job" in maintaining high standards of trading practice and professional behaviour; and "it didn't seem to us a good idea to throw away something which functions extremely well and build up an alternative structure."

Would the Bank be eyeing the membership rules the Stock Exchange might impose? "I've absolutely no reason at this stage to suppose that when the Stock Exchange makes its proposals they won't be seen to be reasonable."

Other restrictions have been queried. Why, for example, I asked, did the Bank wish to preserve discount houses as a distinct breed of financial animal? Essentially because they perform a different function, he argued. But he went on to make a more fundamental point.

Where we're talking about changes in the securities mar-

ket, these have to be in place by "big bang" day. In the case of the discount market, there's no equivalent, and so we take a more evolutionary approach... We do envisage that gilt-edged market-makers can develop the function of dealing in money instruments; when they have built up experience and can demonstrate to us a track record, then at some stage we will be prepared to discuss with them the establishment of a money market dealing relationship - the extension of the facilities we currently make available to the discount houses, provided they are prepared to take on the same obligations."

The Bank would "probably require them to have off their money market operations so that we could preserve the separation of functions."

So how far could fusion go? As far, it seems, as "an element of common management and even common staffing" - a rule with wide implications for a manner of financial conglomerates.

But some joint operations raise particular difficulty: what, for example, if an institution wanted to operate as both a market maker and an inter-

dealer broker (IDB)? Over to the market: "We don't exclude the possibility... but an IDB will have to demonstrate a broadly-based market demand for its services" - a process which will naturally be somewhat complicated by connexion with a major member of the market.

The Bank's chief requirement of would-be market makers is that they must be separately capitalized in sterling, and (as the blue paper makes doubly clear) deal only in sterling debt. Liquidity, again, is the Bank's first motive, what Mr George called "committed capital."

Easier supervision he cited as the second purpose, and equal competition - "a level playing field" - was the third.

It is well known that the Bank was concerned to prevent the big American firms from dominating the London market, and coming and going as they pleased; but would not restrictions inhibit British firms competing internationally? It would not, Mr George believed, be a "serious limitation", clearly not one that the Bank measured on the same scale as the risk of capital washing in and out of the gilt market if there were no such sea walls.

Will separate capitalization provide a sufficient defence against cross-infection between different elements of the new financial groups, Mr George was not prepared to say that anything "feasible" could ever provide "sufficient" defence; but separate capitalization was a "helpful element", among other assurances. "The basic approach is to try and ensure that good can flow into the market-maker and that bad can't pour out of it."

We hope to avoid defaults among market makers

So how much risk did he think there was, during the rough transition passage, of a big collapse? "If by collapse you mean failure - default - by a market maker I hope very much we can avoid that. I think that if you mean by collapse that a particular market maker found the going was too rough and chose to withdraw, I think that is perfectly possible."

Although "our objective is not to prevent market makers from losing money, but simply to ensure that they stop losing money before they've lost other people's," Mr George did express the Bank's intention to start

with only a "manageable" number of market makers; and the "hope" that the numbers of potential applicants would come down to that carefully imprecise level without the Bank having to exercise its discretion.

If necessary, how would that discretion be exercised? Mr George reemphasized the clear hint in the paper that market-makers' readiness to deal across a wide range of sterling debt instruments.

Questions of reciprocal access to their markets remain as a threat to foreign applications, but he said firmly that no judgments had been made. "We don't have a list of where it applies and where it doesn't." And this question aside, "if we do have to exercise a discretionary choice, I would like to think that at this point the question of nationality would not play a part."

What is more, he made clear the Bank's intention to get out of the business of choosing between applicants as soon as possible. "While we feel it is important that there should be an established list of market makers for the transition and for a period of bedding down the new market structure, we would hope that after perhaps a year we could reopen the lists, as it were, and make them open-ended."

None the less, he was "very conscious" that the Bank was taking on "an additional measure of discretionary responsibility - a new constituency, if you like."

At this point this thread of Mr George's responsibilities comes into line with the other. For the dominant development in monetary policy, along the discretionary and pragmatic lines of which he is such a fluent advocate, is the Bank's continuing and constant need to justify its view things to the markets.

As other kinds of structural change in Britain's financial system continue to confuse the monetary date, the Bank will have its work cut out "trying to explain as clearly as we can why we take a particular view."

Trying - and sometimes failing? "We won't always be right in the same way as the market won't always be right, and I think the process is one of interaction between our view and the market view." Along with the city, the old doctrine of Bank infallibility is certainly changing.

TOMORROW: John Gunn, chief executive of Exco International, characteristically shoots from the hip.

APPOINTMENTS

Three move up at Amax Europe

AMAX Europe: Mr Nico Moutaers becomes vice-president of planning and control. Mr Geoffrey Moore has been appointed controller of Climax Molybdenum Company; and Mr Gianpaolo Chierici is now director of market research and analysis.

Rowe & Pitman: Mr P R Hamilton, Mr A P W Phillips, Mr C E Wallis, Mr P F Elick and Mr A N Whitney have joined the partnership.

Viney: Mr B B MacDonald becomes group financial controller (London). He will succeed Mr N A J Bull.

Paddington Building Society: Mr Michael S Cross, general manager and secretary has been appointed to the board.

Pearce Technology: Mr J A Pearce has been made a non-executive director of Reactive Technology.

London Park Hotels: Mr A Bayne becomes company secretary and financial controller. Rowalter Zenith, Mr David Jenkins has been made chief executive.

Frenchchurch Registrars: Mr Eddie Ray has been appointed chairman in succession to Mr Richard Langdon. Mr Ray is a former president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. Mr Julian Pilkington and Mr Trevor Thomas have also joined the board.

Miller Buckley: Mr Alan Crowe has been appointed to the board of Buckley Investments, holding company of the Miller Buckley Group. He will also be chairman of Miller Buckley Developments.

Marathon Oil UK: Mr C. P. Giardini becomes president on January 1, 1985.

Discount Brokers International: Mr Gerard Troncia becomes chief executive and director. Mr Rodney Leach and Mr Jan Vroegop join the board.

Good Relations Group: Mr K. Andrew, currently chief executive of Good Relations City Limited, becomes director and divisional general manager of Good Relations Group. Mr Jeremy Wyatt has been made chief executive of Good Relations Corporate Affairs Limited.

Scottish Life Assurance: Mr J. R. Glen has become deputy chairman.

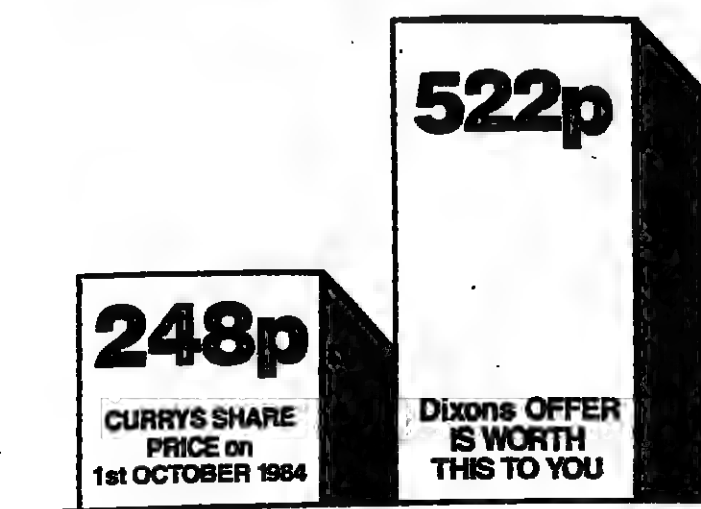
Arrenson International: Mr Andrew Rushion has been made export director for Arrenson International, makers of President and Genesis office furniture.

This advertisement is published by Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited on behalf of Dixons Group plc

To Currys Shareholders

Look how you gain by accepting Dixons Final Offer

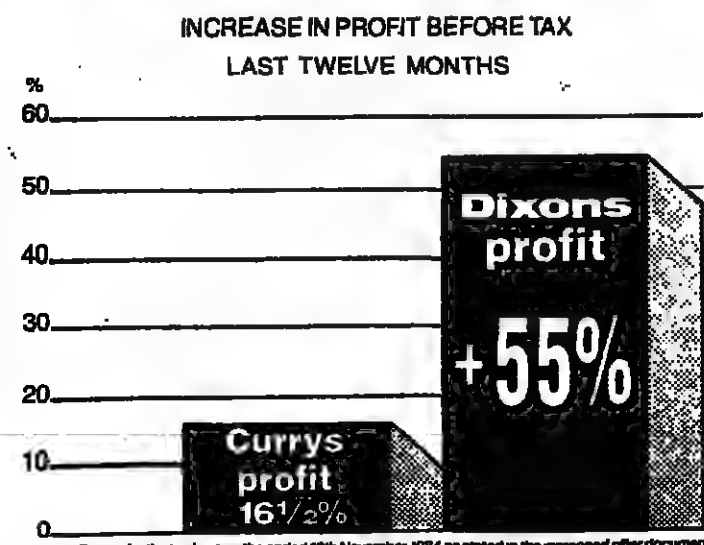
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Dixons are offering you

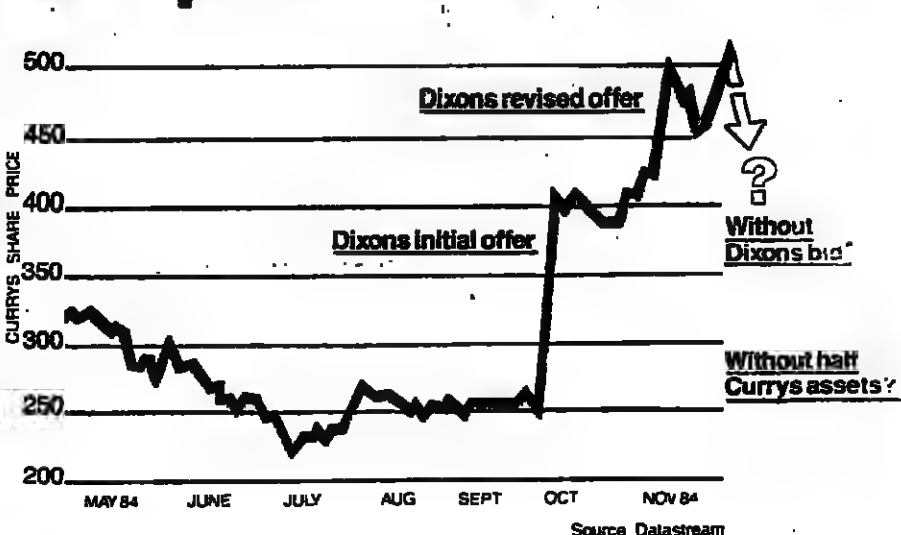
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Figures for Dixons for the twelve months ended 30th November 1984 as stated in the increased offer document dated 5th November 1984. Figures for Currys for the twelve months ended 30th October 1984, adjusted for SSAP21, as stated in Currys document dated 1st November 1984. Increases calculated over the complete periods to 12th November 1983 and 26th October 1983 respectively.

What will happen to Currys share price if you fail to accept Dixons offer?



Currys proposals

- A weak management led into asset stripping - over £90m cash to be paid out of the group - Inland Revenue the biggest individual beneficiary. ■ Half the assets, increased rents, increased interest costs, higher risk. ■ Major investments in a wide range of untested retail formats - all simultaneously!
- 46% fall in interim trading profits (July 1984) raises major credibility gap on profit forecasts.
- Currys 150p cash handout may not materialise - 75% shareholder support necessary.

Accept Dixons Offer NOW!

*Calculated on Currys published current cost balance sheet at 25th January 1984, adjusted to include properties at the valuation of £134.4 million given in the Currys document of 18th November 1984.

The directors of Dixons Group plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and the opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and each of the directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

27th November 1984.

● Finding the password: Page 24

COMPUTER HORIZONS

Edited by MATTHEW MAY

● Hungary's high tech leap: Page 25

Hidden threat from MSX

By Simon Craven

The first MSX home computers are now on sale in the High Street multiples, and the established British and American contenders can be heard breathing sighs of relief, in public at least. The threat from the Japanese consumer electronics giant is claimed to be a non-starter, based on outdated technology priced at artificially high levels.

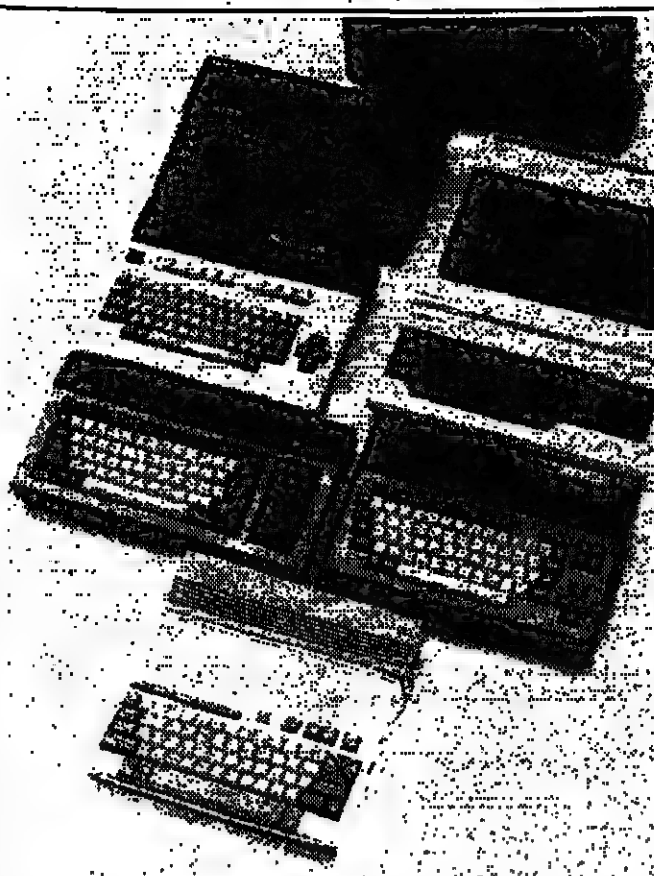
MSX is a specification developed by Microsoft, creators of the industry standard Basic programming language and the operating system of the IBM PC. MSX has been adopted almost exclusively by the biggest Japanese consumer electronics corporations and has been interpreted as a coordinated attempt by "Japan Inc." to sweep clean in the home computer market.

Confident allegations from Western micro manufacturers declare that MSX is both too little and too late but the real major potential threat posed by the MSX concept to Western manufacturers of consumer technology is not yet widely recognized.

The main selling points of MSX in the home computer market are competent design with the accent on adequacy in all areas rather than excellence in a few, and standardization. Each manufacturer's computer is compatible with hardware and software produced for any other MSX machine.

This philosophy is a proven recipe for success in the business computer market but until now the successful home computers have been individualistic designs, with each manufacturer following a different development path. The twist added by the Japanese corporations is to make MSX suitable for use as a general purpose controller for home entertainment equipment.

Already MSX machines have been seen sporting connections for video and audio equipment, and since the MSX manufac-



Japanese MSX computers for the home will be in limited supply this year but do long-term plans mean the British micro may follow the British motorbike into obscurity?

turers are by and large the market leaders in those fields they have the influence they need to impose a de facto standard.

When the owner of an MSX computer is in the market for a video recorder, compact disc player, synthesizer or whatever, he or she is likely to choose something which ties in with his existing equipment. The worry of putting all one's eggs in one basket is eliminated by the large number of manufacturers who support the MSX system.

The charge of built-in obsolescence is also often levelled at MSX, largely on the basis of the venerable Z80 processor at the heart of the system. However, there is no commitment to eight-bit architecture for future MSX machines, as long as compatibility with existing software and peripherals is maintained. This means that home entertainment is not the only industry on which MSX is intended to leave its mark.

Sources within Microsoft, the software corporation respon-

sible for the MSX operating system, are quite happy to talk about fortifying second and third generation MSX micros. The next generation is believed to be a sixteen-bit machine running MS-DOS, currently the favoured operating system for personal computers in business. Its capabilities would closely resemble those of the IBM PC, and it is expected to incorporate a version of MS Networks, a system which allows several computers to be linked together sharing common information and disc storage.

The advantages of capturing the loyalty of a section of the computer-buying public at an early stage are great. The competition to get computers adopted by educational authorities is intense for just this reason. The MSX manufacturers hope that natural brand loyalty will be reinforced by the ability to stay with the same or similar hardware as a system is upgraded from an elaborate toy to a fully functioning business computer.

Pioneering work in the use of computers in the UK for hydrology, the scientific method of water divining, has brought a request for British specialists to help toward the development of long-term stable sources of water supplies in the drought-stricken countries of Africa.

The investigation coincides with plans for a modernisation project of the computer systems now in use so that even more effective procedures can be applied.

The study in Africa, commissioned by the EEC, includes monitoring by satellite of the extent, type and quality of pasture land of the semi-arid regions, particularly bordering the Sahara and Kalahari deserts. Measurements will be made of the relationship between cloud cover and patterns of rainfall, the variations in the way rainfall is used effectively for growth of plants or is lost simply by evaporation, and of the rate and volume of run-off which is reaching untapped reservoirs underground.

One of the purposes is to pinpoint where stable long-term resources are available according to the hydrological and geological evidence.

As with the majority of questions about environmental issues, such as acid rain and lead exposures, there are no easy calculations.

There are no neat, elegant solutions

for the hydrologist, as there are for the physical and engineering scientists.

Although the need for hydrological work is most desperate in the developing countries, there is a growing need in the industrial world for better management of drinking and industrial water supplies, monitoring for pollution of resources from seepage from waste disposal, and for flood control and agricultural development.

The dilemma of the developing countries was described earlier this year by Mr Cephas Mapi of Zimbabwe, when he opened a special conference, Challenge in African Hydrology and Water Resources, in Harare.

He said the drought caused by the third successive year in which rains had

on underground water supplies. Many boreholes had been drilled, but there was only limited knowledge of the occurrence and disposition of underground water, he said.

One of the reasons for the EEC inviting a team gathered from British universities and research institutes of the Government's Natural Environment Research Council, rests on the success of applying their science in the field.

Work in hydrology depends on a range of people with a broad span of expertise from the most applied and practical to those with skills in the most scientific, aspects of the new approach which powerful computers have made possible.

However, a warning that the unique expertise which has been established through the Natural Environment Research Council could be prevented from its proper development was made to a Government committee by an American specialist. It came in evidence to the Flood Protection and Research Development committee of the Government from Jim Wallis of the Thomas J. Watson Research Laboratories, of IBM, at York town Heights in America.

He said the computer revolution was changing the nature of hydrological research. Approaches used, now were not even thinkable a decade ago.

He listed three computer developments which would be used for the next advances in hydrology.

● First, the digitizing of the Ordnance Survey and similar maps, coupled with modern computer graphics, and existing relational data base software to allow the storage, manipulation, retrieval, and presentation of hydrological data (physical, chemical, economic and legal) in new ways.

● Second, interactive computer-based models would become more accurate, with the ability to handle more of the associated environmental questions which will be required in projects submitted to hydrologists.

● Third, research which will create better understanding of the uncertainties associated with every hydrological prediction including elaborate experiments in statistics, particularly extensive Monte Carlo simulations. In the same class of work are experiments to ensure the accuracy of cost-benefit analysis.

This type of work requires research institutes and centres to have their own mini-computers, capable of linking to allow some so-called distributed processing network with each other, rather than a single central one. Such a plan is under review by the government Advisory Board for the Research Councils.

THE WEEK

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

failed was superimposed on existing problems of human resettlement on a vast scale, together with rural development, education, improvement of health and population pressures.

As surface water supplies were reduced by sustained drought, it had become essential to rely dramatically

What the VAL index can show about classes of users

By Chris Rowley, New York

products and entire companies in the microcomputer market.

VALs are "values and lifestyles", as classified by the Stanford Research Institute in the 1970s to provide an easily understood stratification of American lifestyles. Nine different major VAL types are known.

At the bottom are poverty-stricken sustainers, and elderly survivors. Since they do not buy much, they receive little attention in advertising and marketing.

Up the scale come the belongs, the I-am-mes, and the emulators. Above are the upper middle-class types, the achievers. Beyond all are the small group of the integrated (2 per cent), who represent wealth and style. Basically VALs show how lifestyles are indicators of values and predictors of spending patterns.

VALs are taken very seriously these days. The top agencies on Madison Avenue, The New York Times and Newsweek all use VALs.

VALs for microcomputer owners offers a complex picture. Achievers and societally conscious are likely to have to own micros. Some belongers, many emulators and of course quite a lot of the small I-am-me group have bought home micros to find out if they fit in with their "lifestyle objectives".

Some of the I-am-mes have already become dedicated hackers. Right now the VALs on home computer owners interested in an upgrade are a prime concern. More than five million Americans have home computers. Most do not want or require an upgrade, indeed, many are no longer using their micros, which have succumbed to the back of the wardrobe syndrome and are nestling in there with tennis ball servers, home golf and old teddy bears.

There remains a large group, perhaps a million or more people, who are now chafing at the limitations imposed by such machines as the Commodore 64,

TI 99/4A and Atari. Most, of course, have the Commodore machines and it is at Commodore that an absence of VALs thinking can be detected. Commodore may have lost the great opportunity to capture this upgrade group.

The newly introduced Plus 4 has not met with much enthusiasm here and the 64s lack of good 80-column, word processing software, and its lack of compatibility with the IBM PC that many of these users have in their offices, mean that Commodore is out of the picture for these upgraders. Possibly, this will turn out to be a fatal mistake by Commodore management.

The question remains, what are the young, well-educated home computer owners who need an upgrade to that "useful business machine" choose.

One thing is for sure, the microcomputer buyer in 1984 is a more careful shopper than his or her forebears in previous Christmas rushes.

The American micro owner seeking that sweet upgrade is even canner. Years of reading the bulky US microcomputer magazines have shown the potential wonders and horrors of this particular purchase. The worst imaginable fate is to spend a thousand dollars and end up with a "lemon". This is not only bad VALs, but plain foolish. In the United States of 1984 "achiever-consciousness" is No 1 and no would-be achievers can afford to look foolish. So the problem of upgrading one's computer has to be considered very carefully.

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مركز أمن النحل

Hard-pressed ICL is needing more than one per desk

By Kevin Pearson

Britain's only across the board computer manufacturer, ICL, should be riding high, following its takeover by one of the UK's leading telecommunications suppliers, Standard Telephones and Cables (STC). The company has diversified its products and has moved into several new markets. Nevertheless, reports of problems continue to appear in the computer trade press.

Two recent examples are reports of poor performance with the DM 1 low end machine, and the defection of some key ICL customers to ICL's major rival in the UK, the giant US owned IBM.

Neither story is as clear cut, as reports claim. Although ICL denies that DM 1 is giving trouble, it has been reported that several of the early test customers say that its instruction processing rate is lower than expected. And it appears that the company has run into further trouble with attempts to link single DM 1 machines together to give even higher processing rates.

The company confirmed that DM 1 will not be launched until 1985, although it was to have been the centrepiece of a series of Autumn product launches. It denied there were any problems but such a delay adds weight to speculation of difficulties.

The problem for the company is that despite the recent product launches, such as the One Per Desk office computer, it is still heavily dependent on revenues from mainframe products. In the region of 40 per cent of ICL's revenues are due to this product area alone.

But its 2900 series of mainframes is beginning to look long in the tooth and DM 1 and Esprit, a larger machine to be launched late in 1985, are to replace the 2900 series ultimately. Problems with these products will severely hamper the company's prospects as a first division challenger in the European information technology league.



Peter Bonfield took over as managing director of ICL following STC's takeover of the company in September. Having graduated in engineering from Loughborough University in 1966, Mr Bonfield held a variety of executive jobs with Texas Instruments before joining ICL in 1981 as group marketing director of ICL's world operations. His predecessor Robb Wilmot, who also came to ICL from Texas Instruments, became chairman following Sir Michael Edwards' move to Dunlop.

The company used to offer mainframe computers across the entire performance range. But today the 2900 only covers the bottom to middle order of what is available from ICL's rivals. And that is a serious drawback for mainframe customers who because of the

British Telecom, which used to buy ICL computers until the policy of preferential procurement in favour of a domestic supplier was outlawed by the EEC, split its most recent large order between ICL and IBM. It now looks as though IBM will get the lion's share of the order for branch office machines, which could ultimately number several hundred.

The Central Electricity Generating Board recently increased its complement of IBM machines, with two of the largest mainframes made by the US company. However, the CEB's regional offices still use ICL machines.

And the Royal Ordnance Factory, another candidate for privatisation, is thought to be looking at IBM operating systems and networking, even though its existing systems are ICL based. ROF is planning to spend £15 million to upgrade its computer operations and the upgrade will be subject to an open tender. The problem facing ICL is that if it is experiencing problems with DM 1 it will not look good compared with tried and tested systems from rival bidders.

The company lost out when the Swansea based Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre changed its computers. That contract went to IBM because ICL did not have suitable products that it could demonstrate.

When Robb Wilmot, the company's former managing director and present chairman, took over the helm in 1981 it was thought that ICL could overcome its deficiency in the top performance bracket by selling a mainframe which could run IBM programs.

The company entered into a deal with the Japanese computer manufacturer, Fujitsu, which is also responsible for the development of the DM 1 and Esprit mainframes. But its efforts in this were largely unsuccessful and the division established to sell the IBM compatible Atlas machines was disbanded earlier this year after selling only five such systems.

Paying the money for micro training

By Alistair Guild

An agreement implemented yesterday is aimed at attracting more businessmen to Microsystems Centres for advice and training in microcomputers and software.

Under the agreement, the Federation of Microsystems Centres and the computer Retailers' Association, 19 centres including two in Scotland and one in Belfast, will do some of the training of businessmen who want to acquire systems that CRA members may be unable to handle themselves.

There are about 300 computer dealer members of the CRA. "The CRA is very conscious that first-time buyers of systems often do not get the training to make full use of the equipment bought from its members or any other micro computer outlet," says Mr David Jinkinson of South Yorkshire Microsystems Centre, the site chosen for the pilot. "When a purchaser realises that training can cost up to £1,000 he suddenly realises that he hasn't budgeted for that. So he tries to learn as he goes along, and that can be an awful time waster."

Mr Jinkinson acknowledges a growing tendency for retailers to supply training as a way of adding value to their products, but in some cases retailers still want to direct their customers to microsystems centres immediately after purchase or sometime later for further training should staff changes occur in their business, for instance.

Last year the centres received £500,000 in pump priming support from the DTI and total running costs were £1 million. They operate under a code of practice that debars them from receiving any revenue from the sale of either software or hardware.

Fujitsu chalks up biggest ever sales

From Simon Scott Plimmer in Tokyo

Fujitsu, Japan's largest computer company, is set to top one thousand billion yen (£3.3 billion) in sales this year and is rapidly expanding operations in the huge American market.

Sales for the year ending next March 31 (fiscal 1984) are expected to be worth 1,300 billion yen (£4.3 billion), a rise of over 30 per cent.

According to recent research, Fujitsu has 24.7 per cent of the Japanese mainframe market, just behind IBM Japan, and ahead of Hitachi and NEC. This sector is expected to grow at an annual rate of about 15 per cent over the next five years as Japan introduces new kinds of information service, from the Captain videoter system to cable television, electronic mail, high speed facsimile transmission and personal computers linked to word processors and telephones.

A large-scale value added network (VAN) will begin next Mainframe suppliers to the Japanese market (by value of installed machines mid-1984)

	percentage share
Japan IBM	28.0
Fujitsu	24.7
Hitachi	20.5
NEC	13.2
Japan Univac	8.0
Burroughs	3.9
Japan NCR	2.0

Source: Nikkei/McGraw Hill

April and in 1986 Japanese banks will start operating a third on-line system.

In the mainframe sector, Fujitsu has two super-computers and 11 large and medium-scale M-300 mainframe models. Of only two super-computers installed so far in Japan, the Nagoya Plasma research laboratory has taken a Fujitsu VP-100, with an operating speed of 250m flops (floating point operations per second), and Tokyo University, a Hitachi S810-20, with 630m flops.

At the other end of the market, Fujitsu's has raised its share of the home computer

business from six to ten per cent over the past two years and is now lying second to NEC, which has 45 per cent.

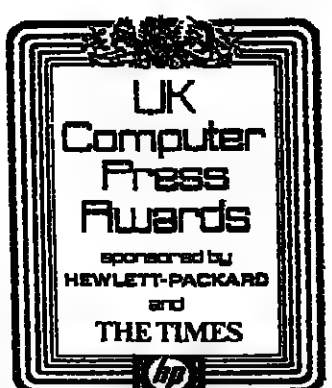
Although Fujitsu's domestic sales are satisfactory, its exports have been rising faster. In the year ending last March 31 (fiscal 1983) they accounted for 22 per cent of total sales. The United States was by far the biggest market, talking about 70 per cent of exports, and the company is investing heavily there.

In September Fujitsu announced it would invest about \$170 million (£136 million) in magnetic disc drive and semi-conductor plants near Portland, Oregon. The company is already manufacturing semi-conductors in California and optical fibre and microwave equipment in Dallas, where it will also start production of car telephones within the next few months.

In June, Fujitsu extended and expanded its collaboration agreement with ICL, a move which gives the British company access to Fujitsu hardware technology for its new generation of mainframes. Since then Fujitsu has ceased OEM shipment of large-scale computers to ICL.

At home Fujitsu is producing about 1.5million 256K D-rams a month, roughly the level of its main rivals, NEC and Hitachi. All three companies and Toshiba are believed capable of making a one megabit chip but it is thought unlikely that they will market it in the near future.

In March Fujitsu announced the development of a one-kilobit static ram chip, using a high electron mobility transistor (HEMT) a combination of gallium arsenide and aluminium gallium arsenide. The chip registered a access time of a nanosecond (billionth of a second) at a temperature of minus one hundred and ninety six degrees Centigrade. Fujitsu sees this as a step towards the development of the HEMT large-scale integrated circuits essential for ultra high-speed computers.



The winners of the UK Computer Press Awards are to be announced this evening at a presentation ceremony at Claridges. The awards, organised by The Times and Hewlett Packard, are aimed at establishing standards of excellence within this rapidly growing segment of the specialised press. A team of judges from national journalism and the computer industry have nominated the following as finalists for the awards in each category:

● Computer Journal of the Year: Computing, Editor Richard Sharpe (VNU Business Publications) Microscope, Editor Peter Jackson (SportsScene Specialist Press) Personal Computer News, Editor Peter Worlock (VNU Business Publications)

● Best Designed Computer Journal of the Year: PC Magazine, (VNU Business Publications) Personal Computer News (VNU Business Publications) QL User (SportsScene Specialist Press)

● Computer Journalist of the Year (News): Steve Connor, New Scientist; Lisa Israel, Computer News; Keith Woolcock, New Technology

● Computer Journalist of the Year (Features): Caroline Berman, Computing; John Lettice, Personal Computer News; Richard Sarson, freelance

● Computer Photographer of the Year: Paul Chave, Crispin Thomas, Roger Tooth.

Are there too many computer shows?

By Geoff Wheelwright

The car industry has one big show a year, the ski industry has its own annual showcase - but somehow the computer industry has always thought it could support one big show a month.

But exhibitors have only a limited budget to spend on stands at the seemingly endless series of fairs, and exhibitors now seem to be stretching that budget to its limit, witness the recent cancellations of the Your Computer Show, an event that last year would have attracted large crowds.

The fact is that there are too many shows, fewer people are attending them and exhibitors are becoming very confused about which shows they should put their money into. The last week in October, for example, offered four computer shows in places as diverse as Bristol, Nottingham, Glasgow and Bournemouth.

The international outlook is no less bright. In the first two weeks of October, there was an Australian computer exhibition

in Sydney, Compoc in London and Comdex in Las Vegas. This proliferation of computer fairs makes it less and less likely that exhibitors will choose any one fair to launch new products, and the lack of new product launches will in turn cause the fair to attract less people.

Even at the UK's premier micro show, the Personal Computer World Show last September, there was only one significant new microcomputer launch - and that was Acorn's ABC range (the news of which was heavily leaked beforehand anyway). This is partially because home computer companies are launching fewer products these days and partially because the ones which are successful have enough resources to stage their own launches without having to use shows as a springboard.

One alternative to this seems to be the conference. The conference is, of course, a much smaller affair than a show - but it allows organisers to know

how well the event will do before it happens.

And computer dealers aren't the only ones getting involved in conferencing. Woman magazine recently co-sponsored an all-day "techno-fair" seminar in a London hotel to get people acquainted with technology in a less-heckle way. The seminar was attended by more than 300 woman readers from all over the UK.

But more than the threat posed by conferences and falling exhibition budgets, computer shows are becoming victims of their industry's success. A few years ago many people would come to a computer show out of curiosity and in an effort to see home computers which they might not otherwise get a look at. Now that home computers are widely distributed, have a high-profile and are better understood by the general public - there is less of an incentive to go to a show.

But the show must go on - mustn't it?

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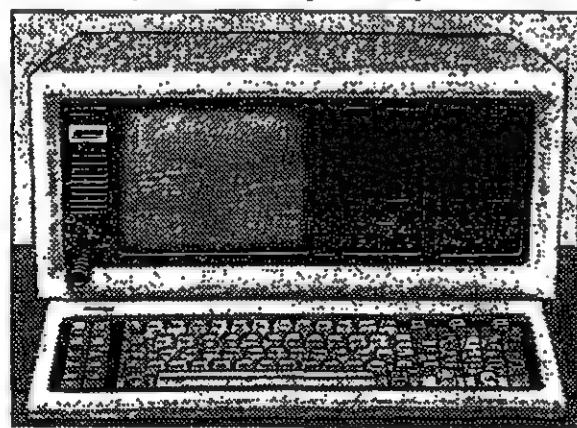
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The way to find the right password

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Answer: Passwords do have their limitations, but as you are familiar with the practice I assume your question relates to restricting unauthorized use of a personal computer. For instance, with the IBM PC and the Apple machines it is easy to provide for the operating system loading to be controlled via a password. This means that a failure to enter the correct password will stop the operating system from being transferred from disc and this effectively puts a brake on stray meddlers.

It is obvious that software from commercial firms for business uses will have password features built in. However, the real problems arise with your own pieces of software that are written by you in simple languages such as Basic. Firstly, you must ensure that the listings of such programs are kept in a secure place. Then you can take fairly simple steps to ensure that displays of the programs cannot be made once the program is loaded.

Is there any possibility of using a communications network which will link with all the various kinds of telecommunications networks?

Both national and international this desirable end is not yet available in a simple form. Nationally there is a sharp difference in the way that the Prestel service carries out communications when it is compared with the more expensive Telecom Gold service, for instance. The present trend is for message handling services to proliferate.

Internationally there are divisions across Europe which will take time to overcome. In addition there are several routes being developed across the Atlantic, although these seem to form a basically similar set of

operating rules. You should be warned that the fastest evolution is geared to business communications. Although the US internal growth of links available to individual users of personal computers is quite marked, elsewhere in the world, the planned linkages are clearly aimed at the larger organisations. This pattern will change only when the personal computer has become commonplace enough to produce intensive traffic.

It was at least five years ago when I heard that document images and voice messages were soon to be filed away in computers. Are these capabilities part of the next stage. It is mostly a matter of cost. Most major equipment suppliers have document filing systems that can be demonstrated. Olivetti has just added a document filing system to its product line, for instance, and Philips has demonstrated the virtues of the optical disc in this regard. However, it has proved hard to make complete systems cheaply. Paper and documents fit together very well. For handling digitized voice records you can refer to Texas Instruments. This is a source of products in voice recognition, voice synthesis and voice filing. Specifically, users of the 'Professional' personal computer from Texas Instruments can add a mixture of these functions for under £1,500.

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Reader's Digest

(ri:da-rs daid-gest) definition: excellent career prospects for I.B.M. Systems Analysts, PL/1 Programmers and Analyst Programmers

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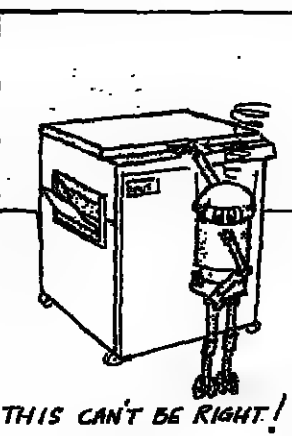
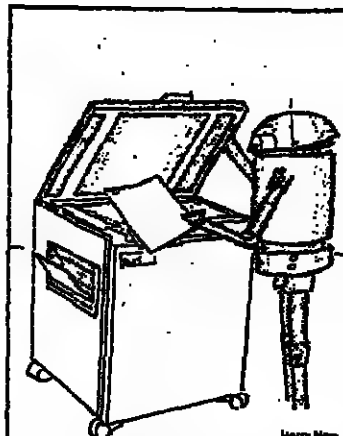
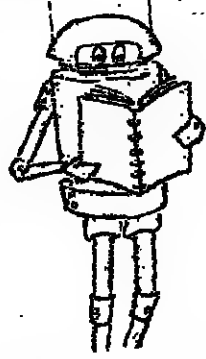
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Beware, the bad buys are still about

Some leading manufacturers of micro and low-end minicomputer systems are still trying to sell models that are either poor value or downright bad buys, according to the latest issue of *What to Buy for Business*. In a report covering 350 systems, many of the more expensive models such as the Data General CS100, Olivetti's M60 and S6000, Triumph Adlers 1635, Burroughs 532 and Texas Instrument's 300 all come in for heavy criticism. Many computers, the study claims, are sold on their logos rather than merit, but it did find, in the over £10,000 market, that Northern Telecom's Vienna, Digital's Microvax1 and Olivetti AT & T's 382 were among those worth a look. At the cheaper end of the market the Prism Wren, ACT's Apolite, Ferranti's Advance and Futura Computers' FX series were all cited as best buys. Single copies of the report are available from the magazine for £19.75.

Game play

The term media convergence has been around ever since films like *The Sound of Music* spawned bestselling LPs. Over the years the phenomenon has further approached on formerly disparate arms of the entertainment industry. Now the volatile computer-games market is forging closer links with the film industry. London-based Argus Press Software has joined forces with 20th Century Fox, basing an adventure game for the Commodore 64 and Sinclair Spectrum around the cult film *Alien*. Fox has plans to re-release *Alien* (possibly closely followed by *Alien*

COMPUTER BRIEFING

If next year and sees the *Alien* game paving the way in terms of promotion, the *Alien* game-pack literature includes stills and background on the film. Fox does not rule out the possibility of selling the game in theatres. Argus is now collaborating on another tie-up - a game based on Paul McCartney's *Give My Regards to Broad Street*.

Firm base

The 12 small-firm centres set up around the country as an information service for small businesses are being supplied with a computerized data-base and management system. The hardware, and software development costs total £1m. All staff will have a terminal linked into a local area network. The system is intended to provide a reference book of information to enable staff to deal quickly with clients, maintain client details, arrange and confirm appointments for clients

with business counselors and provide management information. According to Department of Trade and Industry figures small-firm centres received over 300,000 enquiries in 1983/84 and in England alone gave nearly 30,000 counselling sessions. The DTI, as the central coordinating centre, will supply information about changes to government schemes on floppy discs. The system was piloted in Nottingham and should be replicated in every centre by the beginning of 1985.

UK events

International Exposition for Technology Transfer, Metropole Hotel, Brighton, today until November 30.
Electron & BBC Users' Show, New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, London SW1, December 9-9.
CAD/CAM International Show, NEC, Birmingham, January 8-10.
High Technology & Computers in Education, Barbican, London, January 23-25.
PC Trade Show, Barbican, London, February 26-28.
DEXPO Europe, Olympia, London, March 8-9.
Info '85, Olympia, London, March 25-28.
Which Computer?, NEC, Birmingham, January 15-18.

Overseas events

Computer China, Xiamen, China, until December 1.
DEXPO West, Anaheim, California, December 11-14.
Softcon, Georgia World Congress Centre, Atlanta, Georgia, March 31-April 3.

Hungary leaps into high technology

By Peter Humphrey in Budapest

A new industry being built in Hungary by bright young computer buffs is winning a place in the West's lucrative but fiercely competitive video games market. Western computer stores are clearing room on their shelves for Hungarian products with names such as Buffalo Roundup, Caesar the Cat, Chinese Juggler, Traffic and Eureka.

Two years ago there was no such industry here, but advances in software expertise, economic reforms that spur initiative in business and the ingenuity of a nation that produced Rubik's Cube - an infuriatingly difficult mechanical puzzle - have unleashed a welter of activity.

New firms and freelancers are burning the midnight oil to meet deadlines for western partners with an insatiable appetite for Hungarian games. The 18-month-old Novotrade Joint Stock Company is the leader, selling its games in Britain, the US and West Germany. After living on advances of \$600,000 (about £470,000) in 1984, it expects to move into big profits after the first royalties come in next year, said managing director Gabor Renyi.

Novotrade has sent 25 games to the western market with a circulation target of 50,000 units each, and expects to make \$1.5 million dollars from royalties in 1985, according to Mr Renyi.

"But we need only one game to be a big success and we'll make much more," he said. "There are signs this will happen, with confidence high both here and among western partners."

A Novotrade game called Eureka has been launched worldwide with a £25,000 prize to the first person who reaches the end of the epic adventure. Mr Renyi said: "We are aiming to compete with U.S. firms - the best play, best graphics, best music, and the

best use of the computer's abilities."

British partner Andromeda is setting up a firm in Britain to take Novotrade games to the US market, where it will cooperate with American firms Epyx and Activision. For now, Novotrade produces games for the Commodore 64 and Sinclair Spectrum home computers widely used in Britain. Andromeda has told Novotrade its ideas are highly original and immensely popular.

The firm, whose shares are owned by 97 state organizations, is proving the value of reforms that are decentralizing the communist state's economy. Free to mould a market strategy, the firm can make the quick responses needed in this volatile trade where a bureaucratic economy would stand much less chance.

Novotrade has only five in-house programmers. It relies on 150 freelancers in an "electronic cottage industry" to design its games, paid by contract for each project.

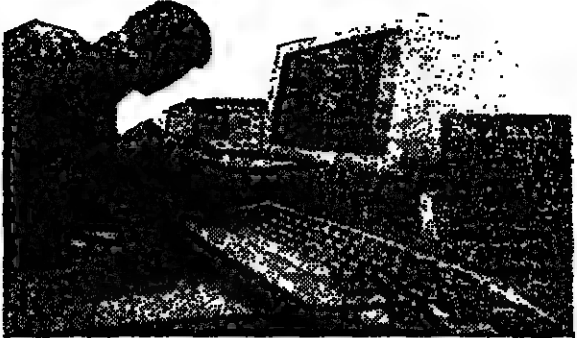
A core of 50 work constantly, said the software manager, Donat Kiss. "The majority are fanatics. They push their kids aside and work through the night," he said. College graduates with computing experience or computer users bored with their jobs work away in basement and attic rooms.

With home computers way beyond the pocket of most programmers - a Commodore 64 costs £1,250 in the Budapest shops - Novotrade lends imported machines to freelancers so they can produce their games.

The Traffic game, in which players control the traffic flow on London streets, was written by three university mathematics students in their spare time. Launched in Britain by Quicksilver, the complex game has five traffic maps with vivid graphics, ragtime music and synthetic speech.

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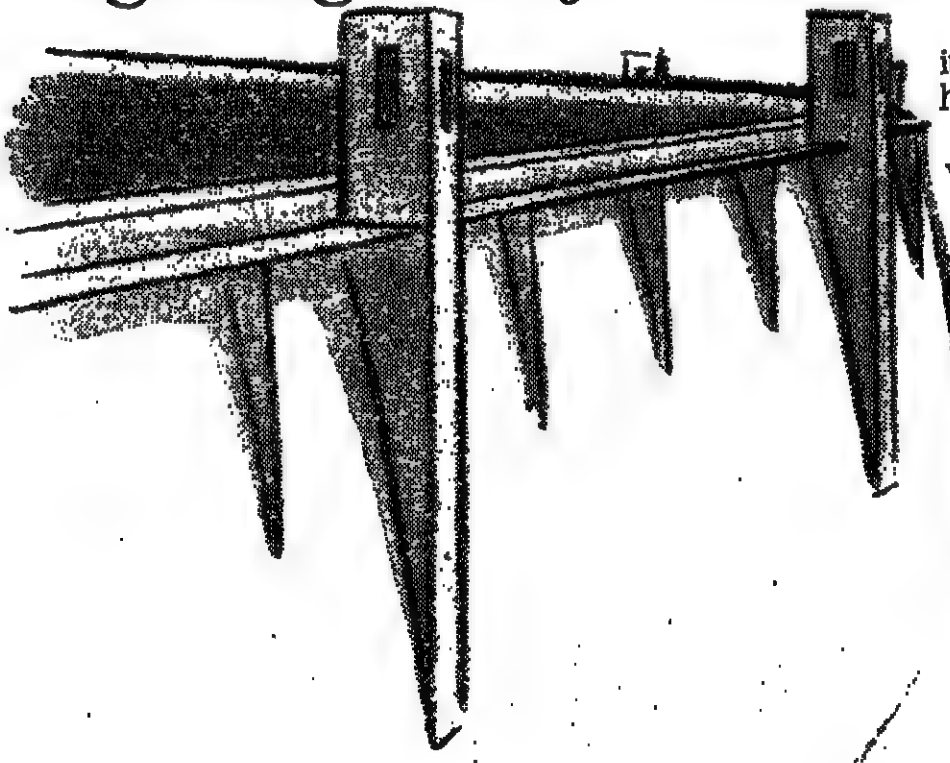
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CRICKET: AUSTRALIANS IN DISARRAY AFTER SECOND TEST DEFEAT

Hughes resigns captaincy as pressures after defeat prove unbearable

A captain who ran himself out

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

Brisbane (Reuters) — Australia's captain, Kim Hughes, resigned after the West Indies triumphed in the second Test to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series here yesterday. Hughes said he had been subject to increasing pressure and criticism from certain sections of the media and this had taken its toll. He would still be available as a batsman.

Hughes attempted to read a prepared statement to a packed news conference but with tears rolling down his cheeks was too upset to complete it. He left the room, head bowed. Bob Merchant, the Australian manager, completed the statement.

Hughes's statement said: "The Australian cricket captaincy is something that I have held very dear to me. However, playing the game with total enjoyment has always been of greatest importance. The constant speculation, criticism and innuendo by former players and sections of the media over the last four or five years have finally taken their toll."

"It is in the interest of the team, Australian cricket, and myself that I have informed the ACB of my decision to stand down as Australian captain. I look forward to continuing my career in whatever capacity the selectors and the Board see fit with the same integrity and ability I have displayed as Australian captain."

"Gentlemen, I wish not to discuss this matter any further and I will not be available to answer any further questions."

The Australian Cricket Board chairman, Fred Bennett, denied that Hughes's resignation had left Australian cricket in tatters. "Although it was a surprise to us, the ACB will name the new captain at the proper time," he said. "In a hurriedly prepared statement on behalf of the ACB, Mr Bennett said: 'I wish to place on record the support of myself and the ACB for Kim Hughes for his service as captain of Australian cricket and it is our hope that he continues to play



Hughes broke down

and to enjoy his cricket for Australia in future. I specifically wish Kim Hughes well during the remaining games in this current series against the West Indies.

Mr Bennett said that he had not tried to change Hughes's mind. "I pointed out to him what his decision meant but he was quite firm that it was final and would not be changed."

Clive Lloyd, the West Indies captain, told reporters he was surprised and disappointed at Hughes's announcement. "In this job you have to learn to take the good with the bad," Lloyd said. He said his own head had been "on the chopping block" when he led an unsuccessful tour to Australia some years ago.

"Obviously the pressure of the last few years has built up for Kim and he finds now he must get out," Lloyd said.

In the match itself, Australia offered a measure of spirited resistance before being beaten on the fourth day. Hughes's side, 249 behind on first innings, scored a further 137 while losing their last five wickets yesterday and were all out for 271.

David Boon, playing in his first

Test, hit 51 and added 78 in 74 minutes for the sixth wicket with Phillips, who struck 54. The tail-enders, Lawson (14) and Hogg (21 not out), delayed the end with further stout resistance.

West Indies needed only 23 to win, but Lawson bowled Hughes for seven and Hogg dismissed Richardson for five to salvage a degree of pride before the touring team completed victory at 26 for two.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 175 (J Garner 4 for 87)

Second Innings

K C Wessels c Garner b Marsh 81
Dyson c Dujon b Marshall 21
C Llewellyn-Smith c Dujon b Marshall 24
A R Border c Ash b Holding 54
K J Hughes 12 not out
T M Alderman c Richardson b Marshall 51
W G Phillips c Ash b Holding 54
G L Hogg 21 not out
R G Holland b Marshall 4
R M Hogg not out 21
Score 26-2, 1-0-0

West Indies: First Innings 424 (B Richardson 138, C H Lloyd 114, M D Marshall 57, G F Lawson 5 for 119)

Second Innings

D L Hayden b Lawson 7
R A Marsh b Alderman b Hogg 7
R A Marsh not out 26
I V A Richardson not out 26
Score 2-0, 1-0-0

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-38, 3-38, 4-106, 5-131, 6-212, 7-237, 8-238, 9-271, 10-271.

WEST INDIES: First Innings 424 (B Richardson 138, C H Lloyd 114, M D Marshall 57, G F Lawson 5 for 119)

Second Innings

D L Hayden b Lawson 7
R A Marsh b Alderman b Hogg 7
R A Marsh not out 26
I V A Richardson not out 26
Score 2-0, 1-0-0

A captain who ran himself out

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

It is hardly surprising that Kim Hughes has had enough of captaincy. Since first doing it, in 1979-80, he has led them to a succession of defeats. He has been "rubbed", to use an Australian expression, as no other Australian captain ever was (including even Ian Chappell, mostly by the media but by some of his senior players as well. Ian Chappell, in his role as a commentator, has missed no opportunity of finding fault with him, and when playing was what Hughes could do there was little chance of his finding it in the ghostly writings of either Marsh, his vice-captain, or Lillee, his outstanding bowler.

Unfamiliar with any connection with Hughes, he appeared to be in his early days, to be just what the game in Australia required. At his best he is a brilliant batsman. Yet his very wholesomeness probably told against him. It was compared, unfavourably, with Ian Chappell's "law", which was just about as down-to-earth as it is possible to get. Like Ian Chappell, you know exactly where you are with him. He never deceives — and as a captain he was what Australians value most of all, a winner. His players swore by him. But, my, he was basic.

Such magnificence is rare, and Hughes, deep down, was a realist. He had it. Very few captains do. In 1981 Hughes lost the Ashes to England in England. In Pakistan, in 1982-3, he suffered humiliating defeat, with little help from Marsh and Lillee. He failed even to take Australia to the last four in last year's World Cup in England, and although, by now, his own attitudes were changing — he was becoming more "relaxed" in the eyes of the Australians and Trinidad — he was brushed aside in West Indies earlier this year.

In view of his record, Hughes's recent re-appointment as captain of Australia against West Indies was something of a surprise. He may have owed it to the fact that the new selection committee, containing both Greg Chappell and Bob Murray, were anxious not to be thought of as dismissing him out of prejudice.

After Australia had lost the first Test at Perth a fortnight ago, Hughes was under fire again, this time for "letting the team down" by "batting irresponsibly". And yesterday, after another Test had been lost, he decided it was time someone else was made captain.

This, presumably, will be Alan Border, who captained Queensland. Yallop was written off as a Test captain during the Packer years; Dyson and Wessels are not out yet for their inactivity, though apologetic; and three spinners (Chappell's classical left arm slow, Yadav's off-breaks and Sivarama Krishnan's wrist spin).

Kapil Dev, wearing a Northampton cap in yesterday's nets, made 146 in the Indian practice match at the weekend and bowled without any hint of the back trouble which plagued him in Pakistan. Chetan Sharma, India's new bowling hope, was watched out of the corner of their eyes by England. Paul Allott bowled off a five-year run for about 20 minutes in the England nets and afterwards said his back felt a little less painful.

The Indian Board are regarding this first Test match as marking the golden jubilee of the first Test match played in India when Douglas Jardine's side met India from December 15-18, 1933.

Things suddenly started stirring at the weekend for Sunderland and Crystal Palace just when it seemed that both clubs, who used to monopolize the honours, were fighting a rearguard action in mid-table positions; not that mid-table positions need be that bad this season, with the top eight clubs engaged in the play-offs to decide which four will contest the national championships at Wembley in March.

Sunderland's performance was the more spectacular. Winners of only one previous league game, they went to John Carr, Doncaster, who must have been expecting to extend their sequence of eight successive victories. It was not to be. Sunderland's 1-2-3-3 win was one of the most overwhelming successes of the season. The Wanderers, who were always in front converted 57 per cent of their shots compared to Doncaster's meagre 37 per cent.

Randy Heafner, Sunderland's coach, practised what he preaches by finishing top scorer with 31 points.

Crystal Palace did not win, but gave Sperrings Solent Stars a surprisingly hard game, leading four times in the first half, 5-0 at Eastleigh. The final score, 9-5, flattened Solent, who had stretched their advantage through four shots when Jeremiah, now back at Palace after an 18-month absence, committed offences in trying to reduce a late three-point deficit. Simpson, Lucas and Seaman collected the bulk of Palace's points, with Robinson, Callandrelli and Johnson, who is now off the transfer list, doing the rest.

For the Manchester forward, the worst possible send-off before flying out to Israel today with the England team for Thursday's World Cup tie in Tel Aviv. His two missed free throws eight seconds from the end possibly cost his side victory in an exciting game at Hemel/Watford Royals.

Branch, with a three-pointer, and Robinson had clawed back Manchester's 87-82 deficit to one point (87-86) when Gardner had dislodged a basket that would have put them in front for the first time, with 28 seconds left. Given further chances from their free-throw line, Gardner allowed the noise of the home crowd to distract him and Moxey secured Heme's victory with one of two more free throws at the other end.

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ICE SKATING



Convincing victories have given Susan Jackson the upper hand (Photograph: Norman Lomax)

Miss Wood out to recover crown

By John Hennessy

If a British figure skater, as distinct from ice dance, is at a low ebb, the national championships, sponsored by Tuborg Lager at Richmond over the next two days, will benefit from a special competitive flavour, springing from the attempt by Karen Wood, champion in 1980 and 1982, to recover her title from Susan Jackson, once of Nottingham, now training at Richmond.

Miss Wood had wandered far and wide recently in search of herself and for the last month has been under the eye of Alison Smith, a former skater who has been coaching 3,000 feet up in the Spanish Pyrenees. On the face of it, Miss Jackson, who at 19 is three years the junior, has the upper hand. She beat Miss Wood convincingly not only last year, but also in the St Ivel

competition at Richmond in September.

On neither occasion did we see the real Miss Wood. She has gone through a traumatic spell and her natural talent has been submerged by the pressures. Clearly Miss Smith has been unable to teach a great deal of skating technique in such a short period, but she hopes to have exerted some influence in mental and physical conditioning.

The location of the event, the advanced workout programme, has helped in one area but the mind is less susceptible to easy palliatives.

There is a record entry of 21 for the women's championship but only five for the men's event and four for the pairs. Paul Robinson and Lisa Cushey with her brother Neil are favoured for the men's and pairs

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The Tsarevich ready to make most of advantage

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

A clue to the possible outcome of the Peterborough Chase at Huntingdon today can be found by a reference to the most recent edition of the *Racing Calendar* which was published last week. The Tsarevich, my selection, is set to give weight to Katharine Lad. Iden Green, Carvel Opal and Left Bank in a handicap at Sandown Park last week. Yet the conditions of this afternoon's race enable him to meet the first three of that quartet on equal terms and the fourth on more advantageous terms than he would in a handicap.

In the circumstances the Tsarevich looks a good nap to open his seasonal account, particularly as Nicky Henderson, his trainer, assumed me yesterday that the eight-year-old would be finished. He added that the Tsarevich was such a gross horse and that he invariably needed a race at the start of a season to knock him into shape, which was precisely the case at Ascot 11 days ago when he finished last of five in the Manxou Steeplechase won by Artifice.

With that race under his belt, the Tsarevich will jump much sharper this afternoon and Henderson will be disappointed if he cannot beat his four opponents on these terms. Last season the Tsarevich finished

second to Fifty Dollars More in the Kellencham Construction Cup at Cheltenham besides winning the H & T Walker Goodness Handicap chase at Ascot, and that is arguably a better record than any of his rivals today can boast.

The Tsarevich's stable companion, Paulistan, is not without a good chance of winning the Broadward Novices Handicap hurdle either following that encouraging run behind Kaur at Ascot. However, Fast Lady, Henderson's third runner at Huntingdon, may well be foiled by Yellow Iris in the Elms Stud Novices Hurdle.

Six Times, a winner at Huntingdon already this season, is out to improve his record there in the Radio Cambridgeshire Handicap Chase, but here I doubt his ability to concede nearly 2st to Leander Blue, who ran so well against Tom's Little Al at Kempton not all that long ago.

In the West Country, the Newton Abbot Novices Chase may well go to Freddie Starr's promising young jumper, Tracop, who performed most creditably at Newbury recently when he finished third to Columbus.

Glen Road, an expensive failure at Worcester last week when he was

backed down to 7-4 from 3-1 to win what looked like a difficult handicap, now has a decent chance to recover those losses in the Helston Conditions Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle, even though he is burdened with top weight.

At Weatherby it will be interesting to see how Bucklow Hill fares on his debut under National Hunt Rules in the Leeds Novices Hurdle. Jimmy Fitzgerald's seven-year-old, who was good enough to finish third in the Elms Handicap at York this summer besides winning a valuable race at Doncaster on St Leger day takes to hurdling, he will be a tough nut to crack.

Finally, Cornering, from Peter Easterby's in-form stable, looks the one to be on for the Vaux Breweries Novices Chase (qualifier).

Novice suspended

Richard Rowe was suspended for seven days for careless riding at Southwell yesterday on Lisian in the Ascot Handicap Hurdle. Lisian, Rowe's only mount of the afternoon, finished third behind Rawdy and Mollington and was found to have interfered with the runner-up after the second last. Rowe's ban runs from December 5 to 11 inclusive.

Inisharran shines in Morshead treble

Sam Morshead rode a 203-1 treble on Remember Rock, Celtic Brew and Inisharran at Wolverhampton yesterday, and may have been unlucky not to score on his only other mount, Sandwalker, who was still in front when he fell three from home in the Bourton Chase. Morshead last treble was also at Wolverhampton, last season.

The best of the three Morshead successes was Inisharran's victory over Fred Winter's odds-on Play Boy in the Reynoldstown Cup Novices Hurdle. The 7-1 shot got the upper hand over Francome's mount at the second last hurdle and came home two lengths clear.

Inisharran has always been highly rated by Morshead, his trainer. He was running for the second time in five days after a comfortable Haydock Park victory last week. Mrs Rimell will now give this strapping 17.2 hands five-year-old an easy day.

Mrs Rimell also provided another of the Morshead winners, Celtic Brew, who was never headed in the well-run Morshead Chase. Despite jumping severely right at every fence on this left-hand course, Morshead said: "They often do that here. I don't know why. Perhaps it's

Sam Morshead: three winners from four rides

due to the open aspect on the outside all the way round." Celtic Brew was scoring for the third time at Wolverhampton, and his trainer said: "He always seems to run well here. He's the sort who will win his quota at these sort of places. The only thing he hates is firm ground."

Mrs Rimell confirmed that Gaye Brief was still on target for the Bala Hurdle at Cheltenham next month, and that Gaye Chance came home after the Hennessy Gold Cup in good shape.

Robin Wonder is 5-1 favourite with the sponsors for the Morshead Bookmakers Handicap Hurdle at Sandown on Saturday. Other prices are: 7-1 Ballydunrow, 8-1 Keelby Cavalier, 10-1 others.

HUNTINGDON

GOING: Good to soft
1.0 NETHERKELLY NOVICE CHASE (€1,217. 2m 100yds) (12 runners)
 1. 2123 JOHN STANDISH (R) W. C. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 2. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 3. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 4. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 5. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 6. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 7. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 8. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 9. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 10. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 11. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 12. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4

Huntingdon selections
 1.0 Warrick for Leisure. 1.30 Maidan. 2.30 Leander Blue. 2.30 Yellow Iris. 3.0 THE TSAREVICH (nap). 3.30 Paulistan.
 2.0 W Six Times. 3.0 Carved Opal.

1.30 HUNTINGDON SELLING HURDLE (€1,080. 2m 200yds) (12)
 1. 000-000 GOLD HUNTER (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 2. 000-000 GOLD HUNTER (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 3. 000-000 GOLD HUNTER (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 4. 000-000 GOLD HUNTER (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
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 12. 000-000 GOLD HUNTER (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4

2.0 BBC RADIO CAMBRIDGESHIRE HANDICAP CHASE (€1,359. 3m 100yds) (4)
 1. 1314-14 LEADER BLUE (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 2. 1314-14 LEADER BLUE (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 3. 1314-14 LEADER BLUE (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 4. 1314-14 LEADER BLUE (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4

2.30 ELMS STUD NOVICE HURDLE (Hoechst Regumate qualifier: mares only €1,431. 2m 41yds) (22)
 1. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 2. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 3. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
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 12. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4

3.0 PETERBOROUGH CHASE (€3,609. 2m 4yds) (5)
 1. 1312-12 CARVED OPAL (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 2. 1312-12 CARVED OPAL (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 3. 1312-12 CARVED OPAL (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 4. 1312-12 CARVED OPAL (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 5. 1312-12 CARVED OPAL (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4

3.30 BROADWARD NOVICE HURDLE (€1,161. 2m 41yds) (12)
 1. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 2. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 3. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
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3.30 BROADWARD NOVICE HURDLE (€1,161. 2m 41yds) (12)
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3.30 BROADWARD NOVICE HURDLE (€1,161. 2m 41yds) (12)
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 12. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4

WETHERBY

GOING: soft
12.45 SHEPHERD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (€74. 2m) (11 runners)
 1. 000-000 LITTLE GINGER (R) B. M. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 2. 000-000 LITTLE GINGER (R) B. M. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 3. 000-000 LITTLE GINGER (R) B. M. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
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 10. 000-000 LITTLE GINGER (R) B. M. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 11. 000-000 LITTLE GINGER (R) B. M. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4

1.15 HARROGATE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (€2,305. 2m 41yds) (4)
 1. 1312-12 CARVED OPAL (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 2. 1312-12 CARVED OPAL (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 3. 1312-12 CARVED OPAL (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 4. 1312-12 CARVED OPAL (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4

1.45 VAUX BREWERIES NOVICE CHASE (Qualifier: €1,685. 3m 100yds) (17)
 1. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 2. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 3. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
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1.45 VAUX BREWERIES NOVICE CHASE (Qualifier: €1,685. 3m 100yds) (17)
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1.45 VAUX BREWERIES NOVICE CHASE (Qualifier: €1,685. 3m 100yds) (17)
 1. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
 2. 000-000 BLETCHWOOD (R) J. J. W. Bailey 11-11. Mr M Middle 4
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EXHIBIT
NATURAL HISTORY GARDEN an exhibition of plants and animals from the IBM United Kingdom Collection, 10am-6pm, Sunday, 10th April, Admission Free
TECHNICAL WILLIAMS a collection of technical drawings by William Williams and Hugh Williams, 10am-6pm, Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm, Catalogue 10p
THE ART of the Book from the Royal Society, 10am-6pm, 10th-15th April, Catalogue 10p
ART GALLERY a collection of paintings from the collection of the Royal Society, 10am-6pm, 10th-15th April, Catalogue 10p

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Uganda	f 10 46	Karachi	c 27 81	Peking	s 6 46	Vancouver	s 5 41
United Arab Emirates		Las Palmas	s 23 72	Perth	f 23 73	Venezia	f 10 50
United States	c 21 70	Lisboa	s 16 61	Prague	f 9 48	Vienna	f 12 50
United Kingdom	c 21 70	Locarno	c 9 48	Ros'yslavsk	r 6 43	Warsaw	s 13 48
France	s 21 70	London	c 10 50	Warsaw	c 20 68	Washington	s 12 54
Germany	f 17 53	Luxemburg	c 10 50	Wien	f 35 77	Wien/Guan'g	s 16 61
Italy	f 12 54	Madrid	s 13 55	Wien/Guan'g	c 22 72	Zurich	c 8 48
Japan	s 15 59						